



Misaki Jun

箕崎准

大熊猫介 (テロファン)  
Illustration

GA文庫

デュアルアクト

Hundred: Dual Act

5

[Hundred]

Hundred

vol.5

by Jun Misaki

Translation Group: [Taekan](#)

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Illustration



デュアルアクト

5

Charapedia  
produced by Gardens







# CHARACTER



## 如月ハヤト

武芸科一年。皇国ヤマト出身。  
歴代第一位のハンドレッドの  
反応数値を持つ新入生。



## エミリア・ハーミット

武芸家一年。ハヤトのクラスメイト。  
その正体はクーデンブルグ王国のお  
姫様。



## クレア・ハーヴェイ

武芸科三年。リベリア合衆国出身。  
リトルガーデンの艦長であり、  
学生全てを束ねる生徒会長。



## 如月カレン

ハヤトの妹。幼いころから病気がち  
だったが、この度リトルガーデン中  
等部への編入を果たす。



## レイティア・サンデミリオン

武芸科一年。リベリア合衆国出身。  
フリッツの幼なじみ。



## フリッツ・グランツ

武芸科一年。リベリア合衆国出身。  
武芸科男子寮の一年生代家。



## リディ・スタインバーグ

武芸科二年。リベリア合衆国出身。  
リトルガーデン生徒会・副会長の一人。  
生徒会、選抜隊に誇りを持っている。



## エリカ・キャンドル

武芸科二年。リベリア合衆国出身。  
リトルガーデン生徒会・副会長の一人。  
クレアに対して崇拝にも近い感情を抱く。



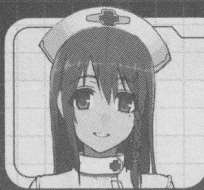
## メイメイ

シャーロットの助手。  
ヤマトの文化に興味がある模様。



## シャーロット・ディマンディウス

リトルガーデンの技術主任。  
年齢不詳。

**柏木ミハル**

カレンの担当看護士。巨乳。

**クリス・シュタインベルト**

中幹部二年。  
リトルガーデンの若き主任  
戦略分析官。

**スフレ・クリアレール**

霧島サクラのマネージャー。  
元・シャーロットの同僚で  
技術者という過去がある。

**霧島サクラ**

圧倒的な人気と実力を誇る世界的  
歌姫。ツヴァイ諸島でライブを行  
うにあたって、ハヤトを専属ボ  
ディーガードに指名してきた。

**リザ・ハーヴェイ**

名門ハーヴェイ家の末子。  
とある事件がきっかけで、人類最初  
の感染体となってしまう。

**ジューダル・ハーヴェイ**

クレアの兄にして、リトルガーデン  
を含めた、巨大民間軍事会社《ワ  
ルスラン》の実質的な支配者。

**ノア・シェルダン**

武芸科一年。リベリア出身。退学させられそうな  
ところを、雪梅と共にハヤトに助けられる。ヤマ  
ト系リベリア人のため、ハヤトとも話が合う？

**劉雪梅(リュウ・シュエメイ)**

武芸科一年。泰帝国出身。  
友人のノアと退学させられそうな  
ところをハヤトに助けられた。

**クラウディア・ローエッティ**

ブリタニア統合軍に所属する、グーデ  
ンブルグの良家のお嬢様。同郷のエ  
ミールとは幼なじみのような間柄。

**アルフォンス**

武芸科一年。フランソワ共和国出  
身。ハヤトたちと同じ寮で暮らす  
ちょっと太っちょな青年。

CHARACTER



# CHARACTER



## クロヴァン

ハンドレッドとその元となるヴァリアブルズ  
トーンを担う密猟者。現在はネサット、ナ  
クリーとともにリトルガーデン内に拘留中。

## ネサット

ハンドレッド  
クロヴァンに従属な密猟者。目に  
ハンドレッドが埋め込まれているら  
しい……?



## ナクリー

スレイヤー  
密猟者三人組みの妹分。武者者  
に対して、敵意を持っている。

## ウィタリー・トゥイニャーノフ

かつてワルスラン社で働いていた天才技  
術者。先のリトルガーデン襲撃事件の前謀  
画であり、現在は行方不明。



## ダグラス・ウェンズ

エミリアと同じブリタニア連邦に属す  
る、ウェンズ王国の第3王子。エミリ  
アの婚約者でもある。

## セリヴィア・ノートルダム・パウロ三世

トール  
一国の王と同等の権力を持つ(神聖教会)  
の教皇。超巨乳。



## レベッカ・マーティン

カレンの中等部の同級生。  
南リベリア生まれ。

## ジョーカー

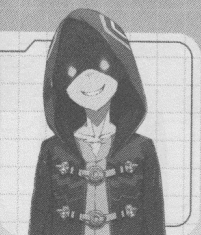
ネオンダラス  
ウィタリーの造った《人工生命体》。  
とある理由でカレンをつけ狙う。

## ウミノ・アオイ

カレンの隣の席の少女。ヤマト系二世のリベリア人。

## ブラット・フィッツロイ

グーデンブルグ王国首相。エミリアとダグラスとの婚約を推している。

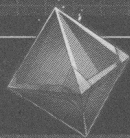


# CHARACTER

# WORD

## ハンドレッド

触れた人間によって様々な武器の形状に変化することから、百武装一ハンドレッドと名付けられた特殊な石。武芸者と呼ばれる、特別な者だけが使用出来る。地球上に落下した隕石から削り出された「ヴァリアブルストーン」と呼ばれる赤い鉱石が原材料。



## 第一次遭遇（ファーストアタック）

宇宙より飛来した巨大な隕石が南極に落下すると共にサベージが現れた事件のこと。その際に人類によって殲滅されたと思われていたが、それから三年後に再びサベージが出現する。「第二次遭遇（セカンドアタック）」が起きてしまう。

## 海上学園都市艦リトルガーデン

対侵略者（サベージ）用の拠点として、武装兵器、ハンドレッドの研究開発と、それを用いて戦う武芸者の育成のために、開発、製造され、運用されている、自走式の巨大空母。全長4000m、全幅1000m。「ターミナル区画」、「ミリタリー区画」、「ファミリー区画」の三つに分かれている。

## リトルガーデン生徒会

リトルガーデンの初等部、中等部、高等部普通科、武芸者を育成するための高等部武芸科、全ての学生を束ねる事実上の最高権力機関。代表はクレア・ハーウェイ。

## セレクションズ（選抜隊）

リトルガーデン生徒会が指揮するエリート武芸者集団。武芸科の生徒の中から選抜され、学生ながらボディガード任務やサベージとの交戦に派遣されることもある。一年の中からは、ハヤトにエミール、フリッツとレイディアの四人が選抜されている。

## ヴァリアブルスーツ

武芸者がサベージとの抗戦の際に着用するスーツ。ハンドレッドの元となっているヴァリアブルストーンが繊維の中に混ぜ込まれており、ハンドレッドと同じように、エナジーに反応して形状が変化する。

## 武芸者（スレイヤー）

ハンドレッドを用いてサベージと戦う者を指す。なお、ハンドレッドは隕石落下時に第二次性徴を迎えていなかった。限られた者にしか反応しないため、その構成は学生をはじめとした子供たちが中心である。

## PDA(Private Digital Assistant)

海上学園都市艦リトルガーデンで暮らす全ての者が所有している薄型の携帯端末。身分証明書にもなる。

## ブリタニア連邦

ヨーロッパ大陸に存在する二つの島、ブリタニア島やアリス島に存在するグーデンブルグ王国・スコットランド王国・ウェンズ王国・アリス王国の四国と、その領民地を中心とする。計十六カ国の国家連合。

## 神聖教会（ビュータリア）

世界で一番多くの信徒を誇る教団。  
現教皇はセリヴィア・ノールダム・パウロ三世。



# WORD



## サベージ

南極大陸に落下した巨大な隕石と共に、宇宙の彼方より飛来した、人類を襲う謎の異種生命体の基本形。鋼のように硬い皮膚と黄色い模様、キロリと動く大きな双眸に二本の触覚、鋭い牙に多くの脚を持ち、腕には大きなハサミを装備。通常型（ノーマルタイプ）の全長は五メートル程度。さらに十メートル程や十五メートル以上のタイプも存在し、それぞれ弩弓型（ラージタイプ）、超弩弓型（トレンタタイプ）と呼ばれる。



## 飛龍型（ドラゴンタイプ）サベージ

泰帝国をベースキャンプとして行われた《龍の中の鳥作戦》の最中に、湖の中から突然現れた、龍型のサベージ。超弩弓型と同程度の巨体を持つ。《第一次遭遇》以前——あるいは有史以前に地球上に飛来していた可能性をシャーロットは示唆している。



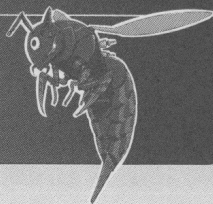
## 人造型（レプリカント）サベージ

ウィタリーがサベージの姿や動き、ヴァリアブルストーンを利用してつくりだした人造のサベージ。通常型より一回りほど小さく、目も一つしかない。二本の触覚が存在しなければ、本来どのサベージも頭部に持つ《核》も存在せず、内部に隠蔽されている。なお、身体の様子は黄色ではなく赤。



## 雀蜂型（ホーネットタイプ）サベージ

人造型と同じく、ウィタリーがつくりだしたサベージのまがいもの。身体の様子は人造型と同じく赤で、核も体内に隠蔽されており、目も一つ。全長は五〇センチ程度で、名前の通り雀蜂のような形状をしている。二枚の羽で飛行可能、尖った二本の腕と、尾に備えた鋭い針で攻撃してくる。



# Prologue

This content was translated with the help of RED IV, a member from a certain forum who helped to translate it from spanish to english.

– She’s really used to sleeping on an aircraft like this.

Hayato murmured, staring at the stars that could be seen beyond the small rectangular window. It’s been three hours since this little transport ship has taken off from Little Garden. Hayato traveled on a ship when he entered the academy in Little Garden and ten years ago when he traveled to Gudenburg with his parents, and where the tragedy of the *Second Encounter* occurred during his stay, and twice when he returned to Yamato in Japan.

He does not have a good impression of the ship. For Hayato it is a symbol of sadness to be on an airplane. He thought he would not want to ride one again. However, he has decided to travel loads of times in half a year since he entered Little Garden. In addition, this destination is the Kingdom of Gudenburg of the Federation of Britannia, where the sad memories of that time still remain.

– Nnnn... Hayato...

A girl wrapped in a blanket sitting next to him spoke half-asleep.

That girl is the companion of this trip. Who was disguised as a man and whose name was Emil Crossfode. But not anymore. Her real name is Emilia Gudenburg. She is the third daughter of the King who rules the glorious country of the Federation of Britannia, the Kingdom of Gudenburg, Granald Frederic Arthur Gudenburg.

The birth of this girl is quite complicated. To begin with, her mother is not the official wife of the king. Although born in the country, she is not from the Kingdom of Gudenburg, but from the Kingdom of Wenz, whose reputation is quite bad within the Federation of Britannia. Wenz is despised by the people of Gudenburg, its inhabitants are known as the “peasants of the

country”, and they are native of the Island of Britannia. The fact that a woman of such a “country” is related to the king of the proud Gudenburg, it is impossible for him to have children with her. That is why the existence of Emilia has been kept a secret from the people of Gudenburg for years. That Hayato is now traveling to Gudenburg is because he is the companion of Emilia.

There are 2 reasons why she goes to Gudenburg. To visit her father, the King of Gudenburg and to break the engagement with the third prince of the Kingdom of Wenz.

In addition to allowing her to stay in Little Garden until her graduation.  
(Engagement?)

In a story he heard from Emilia, it is said that it is for a subject of political strategy on the part of Wenz and Gudenburg. From the < <First Encounter> > *First Attack*, among the citizens of Wenz, there are many who are apt to be < <military personnel> > *Slayers*, reason why a number of them have appeared.

Thus a change has occurred with the balance of power within the Federation of Britannia, and the country of the peasantry who has been lagging behind since the Industrial Revolution in the 17th century has begun to trace its strength and has even reached over the power of the other kingdoms.

**TN: My deepest apologies. The raw that I was using is missing two pages in this part :c and No, I didn't buy it, I found it over the internet xD.**

– Wake up, wake up, Hayato.

The voice of Emilia that reaches his ear awakens the consciousness of Hayato. At the same time, he noticed that his body is shaken.

– Hmm...

When he opened his eyes, he saw the figure of Emilia standing in the continuous seat and the bright sun on the other side of the window. Apparently it was daylight.

– Looks like we'll land in an hour. Let's have breakfast!

With that, Emilia picked up a basket from the little refrigerator by the window.

It was a basket made of bamboo, as if going to have a picnic.

– Let's eat this.

When Emilia opened the lid, sandwiches filled with eggs appeared in view, and whose crust had been removed.

– This? Well ... it looks really delicious.

– Seriously? I did it yesterday, as part of my practice as a housewife.

– Practice as a housewife, you?

– What kind of reaction is that, do you want to be hit?

Emilia twisted her lips.

– No, I'm sorry, I did not have that kind of image of you.

With a “hahaha”, Hayato continued to laugh to try to fool Emilia.

– Besides, I think it's kind of weird for you to say that you're going to end your commitment to being the prince's betrothed to dedicate yourself to practice as a housewife.

– Muu, Hayato baka...

– Why do you say that so suddenly?

– If you do not want it, I'll eat it all by myself.

Emilia, who was in the opposite direction and was heading for Hayato who had the basket, tried to grab the basket with her hand.

– Hey, wait a minute! Be aware of the situation, you are very inclined!

The stomachs of those who sleep are, of course, empty. That's why she wanted to show him some delicious sandwiches. Naturally his stomach was making quite a noise because of that.

– Do you want to eat them?

Emilia asks to Hayato, who is directly in front of her eyes.

– Yeah.

Without delay, Hayato nodded.

– Okay, then I'll give it to you.

– Thanks, I'm indebted to you.

Hayato receives for the second time the basket on the part of Emilia.

From inside the basket, using his hands, he picks up a piece of the egg sandwich and places it in his mouth.

– Oh, it's delicious.

– Really? Even more than Kirishima Sakura's sandwiches?

– Why do you mention Sakura out of nowhere...?

– When we went to the beach behind the school building, Sakura-san made them, and now that I did mine, I would like to hear which one is the most delicious!

– Even if I had to choose which is the best that happened long ago so I do not remember very well!

– Muu, at times like these, you should say that my sandwiches are the tastiest...

– It is known that you cannot say if something is tasty if you do not eat it at the moment. But this is definitely delicious. You made the dish perfectly. I think you'll be a great housewife.

– Really? If you tell me something like that, my effort has been rewarded, so I will forgive you Hayato.

Emilia looks down, feeling somewhat embarrassed, with a smile that expressed "hehe" that covered her face.

– Emm, apparently, there are only two left, can I eat the other one too? I think I'm hungrier than I thought.

– Because you're Hayato, you can eat it all, because I have my own sandwich.

Emilia then took another basket from the refrigerator. It had the same egg sandwiches in it.

– I forgot, I also have refreshments.

Emilia began pouring the contents of an elongated cylindrical bottle of water from the refrigerator into a few paper cups she took out from the top luggage compartment.

– Here you go.

– What is this?

When he looked inside Emilia's glass of paper, there was a liquid with a small orange hue.

– It's a mixed juice, I mixed a lot of strawberries, oranges and apples in it, drink it.

– O, of course.

He hesitated a little at the thought of containing strange things, but the mixed juice was just as tasty as the egg sandwich.

And just like that, Hayato and Emilia emptied the baskets that contained the egg sandwiches.

The transport ship with 2 people on board inside, begins to land on the runway of Heathoria Airport, the largest one located to the west of Londinium, the capital of the Kingdom of Gudenburg.



# Chapter 1: The admission of Karen / My first friends / Treatment and tests

– OK well...

Karen, who had finished eating her breakfast, descended from the bed in the hospital room, stepped firmly on both feet, and began to change her clothes. She took off her pajamas, changed herself by putting on her white bra and her white panties. Above all that goes the uniform of the middle school of Little Garden.

Due to the measures after the attack during the festival of the “Garden’s Festa” perpetrated by Vitaly, and due to the restoration work, that was ordered to be performed by the students of the martial arts department of the upper class, while the students at the primary, intermediate and higher levels had orders to wait in their homes.

That order would last for a week, and that it would be lifted after that term. It was Monday, and therefore, the waiting order was canceled.

Karen’s health was the best ever, and there were no obstacles to do the things of daily life. There is no need to use a wheelchair.

And, under her wish, Karen is expected to enter the second year of Little Garden Middle School.

It’s her first day at school since she was born. It is natural that her heart is beating so hard and goes \*DOKI\* \*DOKI\*.

Mihal, Karen’s hospital nurse, went to the middle school teacher’s room, and introduced her to the classroom teacher. She is a woman who wears glasses and is in her thirties. There she says goodbye to Mihal. Karen then decided to head to the classroom with her teacher.

(Uu, \*DOKI\* \*DOKI\*...)

Ever since she left the staff room, she thought her breathing could stop at any moment and her heart was beating louder, so when she stopped in front of the classroom door she could hear the noise on the other side.

– Now, wait here.

As she said that, the teacher shuffled her feet and entered the noisy classroom. Karen glanced from the open door and looked out from the hallway without moving at all.

Standing on the platform, in the center and looking at the students, the teacher opens her mouth.

– I know there's a big fuss now, but could you just relax a moment? Well then, I introduce you to your new classmate. Come inside, Karen.

– Y, yes.

Hearing her name, Karen gathered her courage and stepped into the noisy room.

Difficult, clumsy and slow way to walk. Even so, it came after a huge effort to stand beside the teacher.

– Okay, now introduce yourself to the class.

The teacher placed Karen in front of the platform, and entrusted the rest of the introduction to her.

– Um, mmmm...

Karen positioned herself in front of the teacher.

(Uwaaa, besides I must introduce myself...)

There are many eyes that are watching me. There must be at least 30 people here. A long time ago I could not have tolerated this situation. But I had enough confidence to sing on the stage of the "Garden's Festa". I should at least be able to introduce myself. Karen open your mouth, she tells herself.

– My name is Ki- Kisaragi Karen. I transfer to be part of this class from now on.

Waving and bowing her head in reverence, greetings and applause dominated the classroom.

Wow, it's the real one!

– Kawaii!

– Your legs, are they okay?

– Welcome, < <Little Witch of Little Garden> > *Little Witch*.

In this way, the voices that could be heard continued without stopping.

(Er, emm... What should I do...)

It was the voice of the homeroom teacher who saved the confused Karen.

– Guys, I understand your emotion, but please calm down, you embarrass Karen.

With these words, the class calmed down.

– That will be your seat Karen-chan, is that okay with you?

The seat indicated by the teacher was located towards the right side of the room. The fourth row from the front. The first from behind. You could say that it was actually located backwards.

– Oh, yes, that's fine.

Because since she was a little girl who only looked at a Tablet PC, her vision was not good, but it did not mean that it did not improve if she was wearing glasses. That's why Karen nodded.

– In that case, once you sit down, we will return to class.

When she saw that Karen was in her seat, the teacher began to distribute a lot of handouts to the students at the front of each row.

The form of distribution is that it is distributed from the front to the back. Karen was excited because it was her first time receiving handouts this way. She was really excited today. The handout appeared to describe Little Garden's recovery status, excluded areas, and restrictions on entry and exit which included Sangria.

The handout hits the desk in front of Karen's eyes.

– Your song, it was really amazing! My name is Rebecca Martin and I am from South Liberia.

Just as she looked back, the girl in the front desk offered the handout. Skin with a slight dark tone. Extravagant twin tails. A girl with a cheerful attitude that in the summer seems to be an aura.

– Ah..., th, this... thank you very much.

Karen received the handout from Rebecca, even if she was embarrassed.

– Hey, you, say hi too.

When Karen tried to set her eyes on the handout, Rebecca opened her mouth again. But not at Karen, rather at the bobcat-style black short-haired girl who sits next to her, and who wears glasses.

– You've always been worried about Karen since she was rumored to be transferred here.

– Well, that... that's... but that....

The girl with glasses showed a rather complicated reaction.

– To start you must introduce yourself, it is good that you start with a description of yourself. Look, Karen is puzzled.

That was certainly true, though...

The girl with glasses who had her eyes on Karen, timidly opened her mouth.

– Emm, that ... my name is Umino Aoi. Please take care of me

from now on...

Upon hearing the introduction, Karen responded quickly.

– That name, is it possible that you are from Yamato?

– Yeah.

Aoi nodded.

– Although my mother is from Yamato of the Liberia group. And since we were only in Yamato when I was very young, I do not have many memories of that time. If it's okay with you, could you teach me about Yamato, please?

– Yes of course!

– Okay, then from today, we are friends!

Rebecca reaches out her hand.

– ... friends....

For Karen, that word was very sweet.

In the institution, everyone called themselves comrades, rather than friends.

To say that she is a friend of Sakura Kirishima is very amazing, that is why she is a person she admires. In short, these young girls were her first friends since she was born.

Still astounded, and her heart going \*DOKI\* \*DOKI\*, Karen was about to take Rebecca's hand.

– Rebecca-san, Umino-san!

It was enough for the teacher to draw a shocking voice for her body to shudder and tremble.

– I know you both want to talk to Kisaragi-san, but you should leave that for once you finish the class... Do you not think so?

– Sorry.

At the same time Aoi apologizes, the class is full of laughter.

– I’m sorry, let’s leave the handshake for later.

Rebecca said that and winked at Karen.

– Yes, yes!

And so Karen entered Little Garden Middle School and immediately became friends.

It was a week ago when Hayato and Emilia traveled to Gudenburg.





– Then, I’m leaving!

– Well, have a good day.

Karen, who was under the care of Nurse Kashiwagi Mihal, jumped out of bed in the hospital room in her school uniform and

left the hospital cheerfully.

The destination was of course the middle school building located in a corner of the school district in downtown Little Garden. The distance was no less between the military district where the hospital and the school district were located, so Karen uses the bus to travel every day. Most of the students who go to school are from the family district, so there are no students in the neighborhood.

After traveling in a seated position, in no more than 10 minutes, the bus arrived at the station located at the side of the school.

(Today is the first day I'll be here ...)

Karen, who got off the bus and was deeply moved, looks up to see the school building,

– Heey, Karen!

– Kyaaa!?

Karen was quite frightened to the point that she thought her heart had stopped beating after being struck on the back.

– W, who...!?

Karen jumped back and the one who was reflected in her eyes was Rebecca, with whom she became friends after she had just joined. Behind her was Aoi.

– Ahaha, I'm sorry. I will not do such a thing again.

As she looked at Rebecca who scratched her head and showed a smile that had no ulterior motives, Karen sighed deeply.

– Even so, please do not hit my back so suddenly ... I really was scared.

– It seemed that you were lost in your thoughts, is there something that is worrying you?

– No, it's nothing like that. It's just that attending school gives me

great happiness.

Karen looked at the school building once more.

– So it was that...?

Aoi replied, trying to understand Karen who also looked at the school building.

– To us too, since Karen-san's older brother and the other members of the martial arts department protected Little Garden, so we can return to school.

That's right, Karen has been able to attend school this way, thanks to her brother.

Thanks to her older brother Hayato, she has been able to make friends for the first time.

Her brother who, yesterday, left Little Garden to go to the kingdom of Gudenburg.

(Nii-san, will you be arriving soon to Gudenburg?)

She thinks he must be fine. But she's still worried. And it is because Gudenburg is part of a terrible memory for the older brother and younger sister. Furthermore.....

(Emilia is next to him, isn't that so?)

She had her doubts that it was quite "sketchy", but it was not hard to believe that she would really be a woman.

It is one thing to think that friendship between men is normal.

But if it's between a man and a woman, that's something, that's...

– Oh no, what should I do!

– Karen-chan, what's going on so suddenly?

As she looks at Karen who grabs her head and looks discomposed, Aoi turns her eyes towards her and asks.

– Oh no. It's nothing, it's nothing.

Karen responds hastily by moving both hands.

– What is it, is it a good thing?

Rebecca continued, even bending her head in curiosity as she stared at Karen's reaction.

– More than that, Karen has a proposal.

– Proposal, and what would it be?

Said Rebecca, who put her finger in front of her face.

– I was talking to Aoi-san a few moments ago, why don't we all go together to the town of Sangria?

\*\*\*

Sunset, Student Council Room located in the subway of the school's martial arts department.

Student Council President and Little Garden's Queen, Claire Harvey, has been unable to concentrate on her work.

It is extremely difficult not to worry about Kisaragi Hayato and Emilia Hermit, who went to Gudenburg. As things are, they will be captivated by the people of Gudenburg, and decide that they will not return to Little Garden.

Kisaragi Hayato has made promises to two people.

Even so, there is anxiety.

Speaking of which, it's Emilia Hermit. Who for a time had the appearance of Emil Crossfode, a man.

Since it was exposed in Little Garden that Emilia Hermit was actually a woman, she has been increasingly flirtatious, trying to get attention and seducing Kisaragi Hayato.

Although they are both students, they are traveling to the place

which is full of memories.

She doesn't know what will happen.

(Ah! What I'm thinking. Individually they are talented and necessary people, but in case they had to leave Little Garden, that would not be good)

Claire, in saying that to herself, decides to change her mood by looking at the document she holds with her hand.

It is about the state of restoration of Little Garden. Restoration is progressing at a fairly high rate. < < LiZA > > *Liza* has been silent since Vitaly's attack [No more problems]. The message was issued for the first time in two weeks since the incident, and the amount of perceived energy that Liza's body releases, which was weak, has been recovering. But since then, there has been no communication from Liza. Even if Claire asks, the same thing happens. There's no answer.

(Liza is Liza, she has appeared to Kisaragi Hayato, Kisaragi Karen, and even my older brother, but why does not she appear in front of me...)

When Claire inflated her cheeks, she noticed a \*TOC\* \*TOC\*, which meant someone was knocking on the door.

-Who is it!?

Because she was upset, Claire asked in a loud voice.

– It's me. I have the report with me.

It was Erika's voice.

– All right, you can come in.

Hearing the answer, the door opened.

– Claire-sama, has something happened?

As she enters the room, Erika, who sharpens her eyesight through

her glasses, asks worriedly.

– No, it's nothing.

Claire answered, looking away, trying to hide the truth.

– Is that really true? Somehow, I felt your response was abrupt, however...

– That should be part of your imagination. Leaving that aside, what information have you brought?

– It's a message from the Integrated International Army.

Regarding the report to be discussed, it is Erika who speaks first.

– On the result of the search based on the information given by the gang of three people with artificial Variant, eight Vitaly's bases have been discovered in which she had made experiments around the world. But, three of them are already completely destroyed after having used them.

– After being destroyed? What do you mean?

– Five of the eight bases were left without any confidential material, but the other three had some kind of evidence that could compromise them in the future, leaving the possibility that someone could find this classified information. Moreover, there is evidence that within one facility there was an explosion, causing the collapse of a section of it.

– So it means that an individual from an anti-Slayer organization entered the lab, collected information and then tried to pop the installation in advance? I wonder what kind of research there would be for something like that to happen.

– Details on this are being investigated now. If there is a need, it may be necessary to re-interrogate the 3 individuals with artificial Variant.

– Very well, I will inform Charlotte.



– Yes, that's fine ... Anyway, whoever has gone to those facilities in advance, have searched within the base and in case they obtained the results of the investigation, there is a possibility that they are planning to carry out an attack against the Slayers, and as Vitaly did, potentially affecting the residents and visitors of Little Garden, but as soon as the restoration plan is completed we will leave the port of Sangria and for a period of time it will be safer for all to continue sailing without docking in some port.

– However, there is the need to transport goods, materials, and so on.

– At the present time, we will use small ships and anchor about ten kilometers from the port. I have thought that it is better to use transport ships of goods and to transfer in them only the people who need to reach land. Of course, because of this situation, we must firmly control the entry and exit to fulfill this condition...

– That's a great idea. Let's get it done. Do you have anything else to add?

– Yeah.

Erika answered and continued.

– That's right, Claire-sama ... besides that ... A moment ago, you were thinking about Kisaragi Hayato, right?

– That's not true! What makes you believe that?!

– No, for some reason, I thought...

Erika thinks she looks suspicious, looking at Claire, who responds in panic.

In the first place, Claire has not been able to calm down since Kisaragi Hayato left for Gudenburg yesterday. If you put yourself in her place, you would know it very well.

– Lea, leaving that aside, the test for the team of three is as always today, is not it?

– Uh, mm ... yes, the practice will take place within another hour in the arena.

– When I finish my work, I'll go take a look.

– And about what you heard a moment ago?

– About that, I am going to compose myself. Now, it is correct not to investigate issues that make girls feel uncomfortable.

– I understand. If you'll excuse me.

Tilting her head, Erika leaves the Student Council room.

– Haaaaa...

Claire looks up at the ceiling and sighs heavily.

– If it's not Liza, it's Kisaragi Hayato. My heart is still being shaken.

Are her rivals her brother Judal and Emilia Hermit?

But, she cannot afford to lose.

Claire stands up vigorously and puts her hand on the desk.

– I am the < <Undefeatable Queen> > *Perfect Queen*, No matter what the battle, this one will not be defeated.

Even if it is a battle of love...

\*\*\*

The arena of Little Garden.

Krovahn, Nesat and Nakri, who changed their clothes to 'Variable Suit', were next to Charlotte on the battlefield.

In this place a <Examination> *Practice test* will be carried out as planned.

For these three, this is <Check Your True Power>. Three days

after the terrorist attack occurred during the Garden's Festa, the three members with artificial Variant were informed that Dr. Vitaly Tynyantov had committed suicide.

Nesat had fallen into a frenzied state and traced a Savage, who was later disarmed by Kisaragi Hayato, to return to a state of normalcy.

However, that was the day she returned to wake up, after being in a long period of sleep.

– What are we going to do here now?

Who asked to Charlotte was Krovanh.

– That will be based on what you consider. You will be given the appropriate time for that. Meanwhile, the Student Council has given you permission to stay in Little Garden just as you have been doing. The room you were in is already repaired. So, for the moment, I recommend you to think carefully and to demonstrate how much skill you have.

– Our ability? What do you mean with that?

As for what Krovanh said, of course Nesat and Nakri tilted their heads at this.

– I was going to explain this in the future, but as a result of the blood test taken to you, we have been able to understand that the nanomachines inside your body have a similarity to Variant Virus. It is the same case of Kirishima Sakura who's also a carrier of artificial Variant. Although there is a big point that makes the difference. When the emission of a sound occurs at a certain frequency, it alters the nanomachines leaving them in a state of abnormality.

– Therefore, it is the most probable that is what happened in the Festival some time ago....

– Yeah, out of control.

Clearly, what Charlotte said left the three individuals staring at

the ground in complete silence.

Looking at that scenario, Charlotte quickly continues.

– Come on! You do not need to look as serious as that. Changing the properties of nanomachines within your body could prevent them from getting out of control in the face of those sounds.

– Can you really do that?

– I require all three of you for a week and for three hours a day to enter the capsule that is in the laboratory. Anyway, if you wish, we can completely remove the nanomachines.

– As for that, we who are beings with artificial Variant... can we return to being ordinary humans?

Charlotte nodded and continued.

– If you want it, there is a way to do it.

– In that case, what will happen to my sister's eye?

– I have prepared a prosthesis to replace the eye, the vision may decrease a little compared to now, but do not worry, the world will not go black because of that.

– Krovanh...

Nesat saw Krovanh's face as asking what they should do.

– Wait a minute Nesat, if we go back to being ordinary humans, our Hundred would be unusable, would not it?!

– That's right, Krovanh!

It was Nakri who spoke between the 2.

– Do you not remember the oath we made in which we would change this bastard world with the strength of our Variant under our own hands?!

– ...you're right.

After a few seconds, Krovanh responds.

– We, we want to save those people who are in a situation similar to ours with our power. Also, we have not yet returned the favor to Little Garden.

– I want to achieve that.

Nesat said, supporting Krovanh.

– Of course I do too.

Finally, when she heard Nakri's words, Charlotte smiled happily.

– In other words, from now on you will become members of Little Garden, is that okay with you?

– Yeah – Yup – Yes

The three nodded together.

– Okay, apparently you do not need time to think about it. Okay, I understand your dreams. Then we will leave aside the power measurement of your Hundred and start with the treatment. It is important to emphasize that it is not 100% successful. There is a possibility that your ability will be reduced, and in some cases almost completely disappears. There is no guarantee that you can retain and demonstrate the skills you now possess, and that you must also make a considerable effort to use the Hundred as you have to this day. Get ready for it.

Then, as Charlotte said, and after a week, the ability of the nanomachines to be activated by a specific sound frequency has disappeared. But as Charlotte said, they have also lowered response levels, to less than half each.

Even so, within a couple of days they began to regain use of their Hundred, and response levels have rebounded up to 80%.

What are their limits with their current conditions?

As of now, there are no problems about the stress that may have

the nanomachines, right?

In order to be able to corroborate this, the three individuals are today in the Battlefield of the Arena and they are wearing their Variable Suit

– Hee, apparently they have finally arrived.

Just with Charlotte's voice, Krovanh's ears hear three footsteps.

– ALL RIGHT, it's been a while.

Fritz Grantz, a carrier of the mechanical type Variant, freshman of the martial arts department of Little Garden, raised his right hand.

On his right side is Latia Saint-Emilion, who is also a freshman in the martial arts department and on her left side is Liddy Steinberg, Vice-President of the Little Garden Student Council. All are members of a special squad, and all three have a prowess that stands out among all Slayers.

– In response to my request, I apologize.

– It's okay, because it will be a good opportunity to test our ability.

Liddy humbly responds.

– I do not know what their states are, but it can't be helped!

Latia said, moving hostility toward the three artificial Variant people.

It's only natural that this happens, isn't it?

It's been two times in which she and Fritz have fought against these three people, where they have been completely defeated: On the Zwei Islands and Kong Rurh. For Latia, this duel of practice has no other meaning than that of revenge.

However, Fritz does not seem to think the same thing.

– Come on, Latia. These guys want to be our friends. You do not have to be so cruel to them.

He immediately pats her head with a cheerful attitude.

– Ah! Don't touch my head!

She removes Fritz's hand, and Latia shows her teeth.

– I will not recognize these individuals as my companions, not yet!

– Ha, what an impertinent mouth this weak one has here!

That's what Nakri said.

– What?!

Latia and Nakri faced closer and stared at each other, at that moment you could see the sparks emerging from the friction between them.

– Oh my oh my, calm down you both. The battle has not yet begun. What if you deploy your armaments?

– Then, let me deploy to mine first!

With that said, Nakri threw her Hundred into the air and shouted.

– < <100 Armament Deployment> > HUNDRED ON!

Then, a golden glow emanated from the Hundred, and two

< <Rings> > *Chakram* appeared in her hands.

Hundred of the Holy Ballerina, < <Double Victory Combat Ring> > *Dio Varga*.

– The next one is me.

Continuing, Krovanh squeezes the Hundred in his right hand and unfolds it. The golden light creates a Hundred type Crusher, a double-edged sword, < <Double Edge Rebel> >, *Orthos Liberio*, in his right hand.

– Ehm, Do we have to deploy too?

– Yeah.

– At the same time that Latia nods, a pink energy is released, and the Martial Arts type Hundred < <King Beast, God of Martial Arts> > *Strike Beast* appears, while Fritz emits an orange light, materializing a Hundred of Long Range type, < <Impenetrable Fortress> > *Stronghold*. Thus in his right hand there is a long-barreled rifle, the named ‘*Shooting Star*’ appears. The next one is Liddy releasing a purple energy, and displays the Hundred type Phalanx < <Black Jest Spear of Svarga> > *Midgard Schrange*.

Nesat is the only one that is not yet equipped.

– Are not you armed yet?

– I will do it.

In response to that, Nesat puts aside the patch covering her right eye and reveals a bright golden pupil, Fritz babbles while looking at the Hundred.

– HUNDRED ON!

From the “Eye of Truth”, a ray of light emanated, such as a pillar of light, which extended until it reached the sky of the room. Between them, appears an identical rifle to the Shooting Star of Fritz.

– Now that I think about it, you’re able to replicate the Hundred of other people.

– Indeed.

Nesat nods as she holds the gun in her arms and continues.

– My Hundred is one of the Trace type.

– Now that you’re all set, we’ll start the fight. It should be remembered that this is, after all, a test. My intention is not to look at the outcome of the battle. Seeing how the battle unfolds, I could



stop the fight.

-What!

– Why, our victory was decided!

Latia and Nakri were unhappy with this.

– If you want to resolve this, please wait for the < < Martial Arts Academy Tournament > > to be held in the winter. Now without further ado, begin.

Charlotte said that in an astonishing way, then left the battlefield and raised her hand high, pointing toward the ceiling.

– Okay, start the test.

The buzzer sounds in the whole arena. The person who rang the bell is Mei Mei, who is in the control room.

Points to Liddy.

I think I will not be able to prove my ability if I do not go first with that girl.

– Uooooooooooooooooo!!

Krovanh approaches in a straight line and swings his sword down. Liddy firmly received the attack with her shield on her right arm without breaking the balance of her body.

– What's the matter? Your power has diminished, compared to that time!

Saying that, Liddy uses Midgard Schrange to make space.

With the arms crossing, Krovanh attacks again with his Twin Sword, but still the shield blocks all the blows.

(Damn, no matter how much energy I use, I feel I cannot destroy that shield!)

I think I'm still not 100%. Anyway, the attacks I've received are

minimal.

While Krovanh realizes his condition, Latia and Nakri stand staring at each other face to face.

– You’re certainly my opponent. So as not to talk big with your mouth anymore, I will let the difference of our true strength be through our bodies.

– Who was talking big an instant ago was Nakri.

With < <Dio Varga> > in both hands, she threw them pointing at Latia.

– That’s our line!

Latia starts to approach herself to Nakri as she continually evades the Chakram that were after her. And then lands a blow to the face with the fist of her right hand.

– Agh!

Latia sent Nakri flying to the corner of the arena.

As he watched, Fritz whistled with a \*HYUU\* sound.

– I’m Latia’s partner, let’s do it, don’t you agree?

Nesat is the only girl left, so he points to her.

– Shooting women is not my style, but what else can be done? So, let’s start the fight?

Having prepared Shooting Star, Fritz gives free rein to the shots. In response, Nesat makes evasion maneuvers and exchanges bursts of bullets. Faced with this, Fritz shields himself with the shield in his left hand. Once again he starts to shoot. With a kick to the ground, Nesat jumps high and evades the attack. Faced with this, Fritz takes a defensive stance thinking that she will perform the same move as last time.

But it was not so.

Nesat fixed her gaze on Krovanh's weapon as she went through the air.

– Hundred, ON...

– Haaaaaaa!

Suddenly her weapon changed form, to the same sword Krovanh carries. Because of this, the blade hit the enemy.

– Gaah!

Despite shielding himself with the shield of his arm, he received an attack he had not imagined. Fritz's body flew from the impact of the force of the sword, falling backward to the ground.

– Ooh, incredible, incredible. Your fighting style is similar to Emilia's. Besides, with your maneuverability, which is better in comparison to mine, it will be difficult to keep you company on my own.

Fritz, who fell to the ground, murmured as he rose.

First, he is a support shooter, he does not have the capabilities for a one-on-one duel.

The figure of Nesat who changes her armament to a rifle, appears before his eyes. And she prepares to shoot by gathering energy. At the same time, Latia realizes this.

– It's dangerous, Fritz!

– I cannot help it!

Nakri, who was beaten by Latia, has risen.

– In that case, I will do this!

Announcing that, Latia raised her arm and hit the ground. Due to the action done by Latia, Liddy and Fritz, who have experienced this situation in the past, closed their eyes at the same time. A cloud of dust rises, covering the arena and the earth moves like an

earthquake, shaking their feet

– ...Tsk...!

Naturally, one could see that Nesat was confused. Because of this, she could not find the target to aim at, so firing was impossible. So she did not know where to start attacking.

Focusing, Nesat, confirms what is around her by shaking her head slightly to the left, then to the right. Krovanh does the same.

– I'm sorry, given the situation we had to separate you.

Fritz murmurs in a low voice so his opponent cannot hear him, and he shoots an energy shot at Krovanh. The orange-colored ray rushes over the target.

– Ghaa!

Krovanh shouts.

Subsequently, the sound of him falling to the ground echoes in the ears of others.

– Krovanh!

Nesat raised her voice to the point of resembling a cry of terror.

– Hey, Krovanh, are you o-?

Nakri's words were interrupted.

It was Midgard Schrange from Liddy, who attacked the body of the girl.

Nakri, who did not notice that the spear point was approaching, failed to deploy the protective barrier.

“Guh... aaa... what, damn it!

Who falls to the ground emitting a voice of agony is Nakri. At the same time, the weapons are canceled. Now that the cloud of dust around the arena has become lighter, Nesat confirms the

surroundings.

In this situation, that little girl with hair similar to flames, where could her attack appear from?

(That attack, From where will it come?)

She looks for some trace or clues around her, but she doesn't hear the steps approaching.

(Is she not coming?)

That's what she thought.

– !

Nesat received a sharp blow to her abdomen.

Of course, she fixed her eyes on her abdomen, so Nesat realized that there was a part of the materialized armament of the girl.

(Such a thing, can I do something like that...?)

Nesat's body flew through the air and turned as giving a dance to fall to the ground.

– Agh, gah...

This is not yet finished. This meant that the Krovanh's armament had not yet been dematerialized. That being the case, she tried to get up again.

– This is checkmate.

Then Nesat noticed that there was a gun pointing at her back from behind. When she looked back, she released a large sigh. There is nothing to do if it has come to this.

Without another alternative, she raises her hands, recognizing defeat. Without waiting, the bell rang throughout the arena.

– The battle is over, with that said, how are your bodies?

With that, Charlotte appeared in the field.

– Damn, we still are far away. If we could prove our true power, it would be impossible to lose against these guys.

– Really, Doctor. Can we really regain the strength of before?

– Be at ease. This will take some time, won't it?

Charlotte responds to Nakri who spoke after Krovanh

– So far, if we have compared it since the beginning of the purification of the Variant Virus, its recovery has been quite high, to be honest, it has been much faster than I imagined.

– Is that true?

– That's right, so be patient. Surely everyone believed that within a week they would return to be as before, however, it is indispensable to be careful from here on. Although Vitaly's control over the nanomachines circulating within the bloodstream in each of you has been removed, it does not change the fact that it is still an artificial Variant. There is a possibility that it could go out of control if you are caught up in negative emotions such as hatred, anger, violence, and so on. If this happens your lives will be in danger.

– I understand.

Nesat replied.

The other two nod in the same serious expression as her.

– In that case, everything is fine. My turn is over. Claire, do you have anything to tell us?

– Yes.

The three people looked at the President of Little Garden who appeared in the arena. Somehow, they all had a nervous look.

– I heard from Dr. Charlotte that you want to be Little Garden's

Slayers, am I correct?

Claire, in place of Charlotte, spoke to the three people.

And they responded with a lively yes.

– Understood. In that case, you will be recognized as such. But with one condition. Little Garden Slayers, in addition to the Shingitai\*, must have skills in literature and martial arts. That is why you will study with a scholarship.

\* TN: Shingitai means the three qualities of a sumo wrestler: heart, technique and physique.

Claire smiled with a grin and continued with her words.

– With that said, I thought you guys should start to immediately attend classes at school, therefore, do you accept?

\*\*\*

There is a meeting at some underground place. It is to listen to Judal Harvey, representative of Warslan, who talks about the terrorist attacks planned by Vitaly Tynyanov. The participants are representatives of United Nations's member states and related organizations called "Selection", who are just representatives, randomly elected.

– Judal, today's incident has been a disaster.

Began to speak a voice on the other side of the screen, which was marked with the letter [B].

There are eight participants in the meeting, including Judal. However, this is carried out without revealing the identity of the people who speak to Judal. This is because it is a measure that promotes honest expression without fear of deteriorating relationships with Little Garden. In addition the voices have been altered by the voice modifier, so it cannot be identified if it is a man or a woman.

– I'm sorry for the inconvenience this time.

Judal, who stands straight in the center of the conference, which has a circular shape where there are a total of seven black screens where the letters from [A] to [G] are displayed, inclined his head to apologize.

– It is known that the perpetrator was originally a researcher in Warslan who had a long history there. From what has been said, it is presumed that she was your girlfriend, is that not so?

The letter [C] shone on this occasion.

When one of the representatives speaks, the character of the letter on the screen shines.

– That's all true.

Judal responds frankly.

– I do not feel any admiration for family problems.

It was the character of the letter [F] that shone.

– It's inexcusable. But we already have the knowledge of terrorism. In the future, of course, with the construction of the base of Lunaltia, you can make use of it.

The letter [D] is the one that shines this time.

– So the base of Lunaltia, huh.

Revealing a burlesque voice, the man beyond the screen [D] continued.

– Going to another point, what will happen to the cost of Little Garden's debt? Although the city of Sangria received no damage, some of its citizens find themselves in a negative attitude towards Warslan. Even if they appeal to Liberia, will not it be a great challenge to get congressional approval?

– It is no problem. Warslan funds are enough to pay off the debt.

– You mean that help is not needed, do you really agree with



that?

The letter [A] of the representative on the chair shone.

This is the only participant who has a woman's voice.

– If you are going to give us your support, please contact the person who is developing the Lunaltia base.

– What do you mean by that?

This time the letter screen [B] lights up.

– The first < < Residential Areas > > *Colonies* will be built and the < < Key of the New World > > will be transferred from this Earth to the base of Lunaltia.

– Why do you go so far on that particular space station? What has Little Garden been doing?

– On this subject, it is better to discuss it later in Parliament.

It was the intervention of the representative behind the letter [A] that obstructed the doubt behind the man of the letter [F].

– With this the meeting is over?

– Yes, it is finished.

Before the question of Judal, the representative responds.

– Then there's one thing I want to tell everyone about me.

– We just came to hear your information today. Regarding the questions, we will not recognize any of them.

The man beyond the screen of the letter [D] hurried to give the warning, but Judal continued with his words.

– It is not a question. I speak on the basis of the anti-Slayers organization, and the search for such members.

– Hey, I told you to stop. Besides you're talking about the same

thing.

Again he interrupted the words of Judal, the man behind the letter [D].

There, intervened the president.

– It's okay to say a little, isn't it? Please continue.

– But...

– Listen to what he has to say from the beginning. Please continue.

The president's opinion here is absolute.

He cannot interrupt a different opinion like that of the man of the letter [D].

– Then give me some of your time. As everyone knows, most of the bases have already been taken under the control of the United Nations Integrated Army. However, it appears that in some places there are a few troops from some countries that have mobilized and have managed to get there.

– In other words, what do you mean?

The screen with letter [B] character lights up.

– It means that there may be a country or organization that has obtained the results of Vitaly's research.

– You mean you suspect us?

This time, it was the screen of the letter [G] that lit up and asked Judal.

– No, I can only respond that there is a possibility of terrorism using that. Everyone, please keep it in mind. That is my advice.

– It would be best for Little Garden to be careful.

Said the unpleasant voice of the man behind the screen with the

letter [F].

-For your consideration, thank you very much.

When Judal answered, a murmur of voices echoed in the room.

– With this, does this conclude what you wanted to tell us?

– Yes, I've finished with this. Thank you very much for your concern.

Before the President's question, Judal responds and thanks cordially.

– All right, the meeting ends here, we, the members of 'Selection', will be looking forward to Warslan's success.

– For the good of world's peace.

Following Judal's words, the voices of the people beyond the monitors spoke in unison as in a rehearsal concert.

## **Chapter 2: Father and Daughter / Memories of the Park / The Pope and the Fiancée**

– Welcome back, Emilia-sama!!

It was the Slayer Claudia Lowetti, who belongs to Gudenburg's army, who greeted Hayato and Emilia who descended from the ramp connected to the transport ship that landed at Heathoria Airport.

– This Claudia, was waiting for your return, Emilia-sama!

As she hugged Emilia and said that, she stared coldly at Hayato.

– And you, why did you come, Kisaragi Hayato.

– This, I was told to come to protect Emilia...

The so-called escort. With that said, it's not just that. Besides he also has the mission imposed by the president to bring Emilia back to Little Garden.

– Claudia, stop being cruel to Hayato. If you still have that horrible behavior, I'll return immediately to Little Garden.

– That's right, Claudia. Thanks to Hayato-sama for accompanying Emilia-sama, she has returned home. That is not something that should be treated as evil.

Continuing what Emilia said, and with a lively laugh, said Gerard Kilfelthar, senior officer of the Government.

Hayato noticed his existence with that.

– It's been a long time, Kilfelthar-san.

– Welcome, Kisaragi Hayato. Now we will go to Gudenburg. Emilia-sama has finally returned.

– Yeah, I'm back.

Listening to Emilia's response, Kilfelthar begins to walk.

– I have a vehicle ready, please follow me.

Hayato and Emilia, were led by Kilfelthar to a black vehicle, which had a driver inside.

Claudia and Kilfelthar go at the same time.

I wonder how many times I've been in a vehicle like this. About the same as an aircraft- No, I think more times. I was not comfortable at first, but I was getting quite used to it.

The journey time between the airport of Heathoria and the palace where the king of the kingdom of Britannia, the sovereign state of Gudenburg lives, is approximately fifteen minutes.

The courtesy car crosses the city area where there are a lot of office buildings lined up one after another.

– I have the feeling that this is not the same with relation to those days...

Hayato murmured as he looked out the window. That time, in fact, was ten years ago.

– The old part of the city was damaged during the *Second Attack*.

Right after Claudia responded.

\*TURURURURU\*, \*TURURURURU\*... an electronic sound was present inside the vehicle.

– Hello?

Hayato pulled a vibrant PDA from his chest. On both sides of it, Kirishima Sakura is shown. She is an all-round Idol, also known as < < Servant Princess of the Temple of the Rising Sun > > Sorceress

*of the East* and a scholarship student from Little Garden. She has also self-proclaimed herself as Hayato's childhood friend, and Hayato's younger sister, Kisaragi Karen, who recently began her activity as an Idol, has found her as source of admiration.

[Yes, Hayato-kun? Have you arrived to Gudenburg?]

When he pressed the answer button, he heard a very enthusiastic voice. Of course, it belonged to Kirishima Sakura.

– What are you saying so suddenly? I mean, you're on a 'Live Tour' now, aren't you? Besides, how do you know that I am in Gudenburg?

[Of course, I asked Karen. And therefore, I thought this was destiny!]

– Mm, destiny?

[This is destiny. DESTINY. You know why?]

– No, I do not know, but...

[All right, I'll give you a clue, what's the country I'm in now?]

– I don't know, even if you say something like that so abruptly....

[Why should not you know? Please stay current with my Tour schedules!]

– Uhm, even if you tell me that...

[Guess what, when we're done, let's go on a date]

– What, a date?

The moment he said that, Hayato felt that beside him there was a sense of bloodlust.

Turning his eyes, he could see Emilia's facial expression and the prana surrounding her.

The time elapsed was not more than three seconds, but the time

limit had already been fulfilled.

[Hehe, time is up. I am currently in the capital city of Louvre, in the Kingdom of Francois. It is a short distance from Gudenburg using the bullet train. What I want to say is that, the 'Live' will be the day after tomorrow. Tomorrow I will be free, so if possible, I would like to see Hayato]

– Give it to me!

It was a strong tone.

– It's for the best!

Emilia said again, who snatched Hayato's PDA from his hands, seeing that he was somewhat confused.

– Hello?

It was a low tone, in a bad mood.

Even so, Sakura could identify with the voice and immediately recognized that it was Emilia.

[Why did you respond, this thieving cat\*!? Please let me speak again with Hayato-kun!]

\*TN: Thief cat is a woman who has an affair with a married man.

– No way. Besides, who are you calling a thieving cat!

[It is said that the thief cat begins by being a liar. A man lied and approached Hayato-kun, and even tried to steal Hayato-kun's heart!]

– As for that, there were a lot of reasons and I have already explained that. So everyone gave me their understanding.

[...everyone? I'm not convinced. Students have a great sense of admiration for Hayato-kun, not like you who was posing as a man, so those students who support you are not convinced, or am I wrong?]

– A...

As you can expect with the truth, Emilia was lost without words. Of course not only with the premises, but in different places, the rumors attack, and sometimes the gazes were falling like rain.

[Returning to the subject, let me speak to Hayato again. I want to finalize tomorrow's plans]

– Because tomorrow I have an important task to do with him, he will not have free time. So the appointment tomorrow will be impossible. The end!

[What is this task? What time does it start and when does it end? Will you always be together]

– Because it's confidential, I cannot tell you anything. Anyway, Hayato has no time. Well, see you soon!

– As she terminated the call, Emilia returned the PDA to Hayato.

– Perfect, now it's in silent mode. At this moment you have a duty to fulfill.

– Hey you...

I'll apologize to Sakura later.

While he was thinking that, Hayato put his PDA in his pocket. Suddenly, the vehicle stopped completely. Hayato decides to look out the window, making a visual inspection.

But there was nothing in particular that caught his eye.

The driver only showed his face and exchanged a few words with the security guard at his side, and then the vehicle began to move again and went through a giant gate.

– From here on we are on royal grounds.

In less than a minute since Claudia informed him of this, a gigantic structure was in sight. In a few moments, the vehicle stopped.

– We've arrived, let's descend



The first one in descend is Kilfelthar, who was sitting in the passenger seat, to open the door to the rear seats where Hayato was sitting.

Then Claudia, Emilia, and Hayato descended in that order.

– Is this the palace where your father lives?

Hayato murmured, staring at the palace in front of him. The mansion of the Governor of the Zwei Islands was quite large, but this surpassed five times its size. Apparently there were three buildings that were linked, it looked quite luxurious.

– I was living here too, but for a short time.

Immediately after Emilia said that.

– It is been a long time without seeing you, Hime-sama

The person who spoke was a girl dressed in a maid's outfit.

It could be said that she is the same age as Emilia? Her hair is short, black in color, bobcat style and has fine freckles on her nose. Emilia's expression when seeing such a young girl suddenly changed to a tone of joy.

– Kate! It's been a long time. You've been good?

– Yes of course. After Hime-sama left, I was quite sad. But I dedicated myself to being the best at managing tasks.

– Ahaha, I'm sorry, I'm sorry ... Ups, I did not introduce you to Hayato. She is my exclusive maid at this palace.

– I was not previously, but now I am her exclusive maid.

Saying that as if she barely opened her mouth, Kate lowered her head to Hayato.

– My name is Kate Gramanshe\* and I belong to the Royal Family Administration Department, I hope to be able to best serve Hayato-san during his stay. It is a pleasure to meet you.

\* TN: Her full name is written in Katakana and is ケイト グ  
ラ ラ マ ン シ ェ. Keito guramanshe.

– The pleasure is mine ... but, apparently you already know me?

– I have heard many things from Hime-sama.

– Hey, Kate! Do not say unnecessary things!

Emilia's face was very red.

I wonder what the hell they were talking about.

– Ahahaha, then Princess-sama, we must first change your clothes. If you want to see your majesty, those clothes are not enough.

– ...Haa, why? Cannot we stay with our school uniforms?

– Impossible. It has been a long time since father and daughter haven't seen each other, and it is a good opportunity to show the beautiful appearance of Ojou-sama to Hayato-sama. Does Hayato-sama also want to see the lovely figure of Ojou-sama?

– Well ... I would like to see, I mean, I want to see...

I wonder, what kind of clothes is, it is impossible not to pay attention to this.

– You heard, Ojou-sama. Then we are going!

– Uwaa! Save me, Hayato!

The only thing Hayato could do was see how Emilia was dragged by Kate.

– All right, Hayato-sama, we'll be in the living room, waiting for Emilia-sama to change her clothes.

The waiting room, led by Kilfelthar, had bright red walls and rugs, with chairs around an ancient desk, and had a magnificent view of the palace exterior. On the wall there was also a fairly large

painting whose quality was of the highest.

Inside the room, the silence fell until it was like the death itself.

Claudia, Kilfelthar and Hayato were in this place. But none of them were close to Hayato, so he could not find a topic to talk about. Of course, in such a situation, in which he would soon find with the king himself, it was impossible for Hayato to remain calm.

Hayato tests the water the maid brought when he entered the room, which was placed on the desk in front of his eyes.

(I do not get along very well with carbonated water...)

He was hesitant to drink the water that had bubbles, but he really thought it was carbonated water. As he looked around the room again, he heard \*TAP\* \*TAP\* and \*TOC\*.

– Sorry for the wait.

The door opened and Kate, who entered the room, called pointing to the hallway.

– Hime-sama.

– Y-yes...

Emilia, due to Kate's call, entered the room embarrassed, she was wearing a dress with many ruffle like a princess in a fairy tale.

– How does she look, Hayato-sama? Have you fallen in love again?

– No, I mean, I really thought I was in front of an Ojou-sama.

– Uu...

Emilia hanged her head and her face was bright red.

– I cannot feel comfortable in this. The skirt is too long...

– It's very bad, princess-sama! It's a disgrace!



As she twisted her lips and watched Emilia lift her long skirt in both hands, Kate warns without delay.

– I want to change clothes quickly, so let's go to where Otou-sama\* is.

\* TN: Emilia says お父様 (o-tou-sama), which means father, but including the honorific that is sama, so I left it like that.

– Very good. Apparently you can go visit him. Ready to go? However, Hime-sama, in the presence of the king, I will not be able to follow your orders, I will do it as it is appropriate.

– Uu, I know.

– Well, then, let's head over there.

Guided by Kate, Hayato and Emilia left the living room. Claudia will accompany them to the bedroom where King Granald is waiting for them.

– Hayato, let's do as we have planned to when we meet Otou-sama.

– O, ok...

As they walked down the hall, Emilia whispered in Hayato's ear, to remind him of the strategy to allow her to break her current engagement.

He is Emilia's lover, and their current relationship is that they are in the process of getting married. It is assumed that they will meet with King Granard under these circumstances.

(Is it really good to do this ...?)

Deciding to lie to the king of a country.

If this is discovered to be a lie, this could get pretty ugly.

In spite of this, this operation was also accepted by the president. As a mission carried out by the Slayers, it must be fulfilled as such.

– After your meeting with your majesty, you want to meet with your sisters?

Kate asked Emilia.

– No it's fine. I do not want to see any of them even less meet them.

– Claudia, come here.

– What–what's happening, what do you want to do while you bring your face to me?

While Hayato whispered in Claudia's ear, she took distance from Hayato as she writhed.

It was an attitude that meant 'you should not approach me'.

– Well, I think the relationship between Emilia and her family is complicated.

– Haaaaaaa...

Listening to that question, Claudia released a rather large sigh.

– Have not you heard anything about Emilia-sama's family?

– I heard something about her coming from another mother, and that mother comes from Wenz, so her blood is mixed.

– That's just the way it is. In the royal family of Gudenburg, all their members possess royal blood. Emilia, who has blood from the indigenous people living on the island, known as the kingdom of Wenz, is then a rare person. That's why there are people who get on badly with Emilia, while others try to marry people from Wenz. To adhere to the rules that remain within the royal family, Emilia decided to leave the palace to maintain a good impression on people, but so there are people who hate that she is a daughter of one of his concubines.

– Being royalty is a pretty hard job...

– Even in Europe, the Kingdom of Gudenburg is a great historical country, as well as being a sovereign state within the Federation of Britannia. That is why Emilia-sama, the third princess, is involved in this political conflict in this way.

When Claudia sighed with a rather serious face, Kate, who led the

way stopped. Hayato also stopped. Then Kate hit the big thick door twice in front of her.

– Your Majesty, I have brought with me Emilia Ojou-sama, and Kisaragi Hayato-sama.

– Oh, oh, they've finally arrived. Let them get into the room.

A thick voice was heard coming from the other side of the door. I wonder if it belongs to King Granald.

Hayato's tension increases.

– I will do as you say.

With that said, Kate opens the door.

What you can see in the giant room is an old man lying on the bed, and a man about sixty years old standing at the side of him.

– Hime-sama, Hayato-sama, please.

At the request of Kate, Emilia proceeded to take a step towards the king's bedroom.

– Otou-sama, it's been a long time.

At the same time the door closed, Emilia bowed her head before the king. Then she turned his gaze to the man standing next to him.

– It's been a long time too, Bratt. Have you become Prime Minister yet?

Emilia's attitude was formidable. While for Hayato, his body could not stop shaking for a while back. Of course it was a matter of experience since, for Hayato, it was the first time he saw the king of a country in person.

Meanwhile, the king's eyes are directed towards Hayato.

– Who is that young man?

– He is my most precious person, and asked him for the

impossible, to accompany me today.

– Hou.

Prime Minister Bratt's gaze turns to Hayato, and the king again opens his mouth.

– Could you introduce him to me?

Those were the words of King Granald.

–... Hayato.

With a brief blow, Emilia hit Hayato's stomach with her elbow. It was a signal to introduce himself.

Putting into practice what Hayato learned, he bent down on the floor with one of his knees as a support, inclined his head and introduced himself.

– My name is Kisaragi Hayato, I belong to the first year of the Department of Martial Arts of Little Garden. I am Emilia-san's classmate and I have come to ask his majesty's favor for..., this...

– Hayato is a childhood friend, who also, during the Second Attack of ten years ago, was the person who saved me when I was injured by a Savage.

Emilia continued, in support of Hayato who was lost in words.

– I've been looking for Hayato for a long time, and when I entered Little Garden I could finally find him.

The king's gaze once again turned to Hayato.

Hayato gulped his saliva tightly.

“So why did you bring Kisaragi Hayato-kun to me?”

“Because I want to marry him.”

Emilia said.



– So, this time I came to seek the approval of Otou-sama, I do not plan to live here in this palace, for I intend to stay with Hayato in Little Garden from now on, so I want to see the possibility if Otou-sama allows it”

– Wait a minute Princess, what are you saying?! You are Douglas-sama’s fiancé–

Prime Minister Bratt intervened appearing from the side, with a rather impatient appearance.

– I want to cancel that engagement, that’s my main reason to return to Gudenburg.

– Cancel it?

With a voice very strong, Bratt jumped.

– That’s very rude to Douglas-sama, who is your couple! To treat something like this as a joke!

– I do not think it’s a joke at all, you Bratt know very well, do not you? Because as I said, since I’ve been in the palace I do not remember ever admitting that I accepted such a compromise.

– Is that true?

King Granald’s hesitation turned to Bratt.

– What are you saying, Princess!? You are the princess of the royal family, who must watch over the good of the country. Is it that you do not know of ‘Noblesse Oblige’?\*

TN: It comes from the French, it means: nobility obligates. Whoever calls himself a noble must behave like a noble.

– You who have blood relations with the kingdom of Wenz, this will be the era of chaos. With many excellent Slayers, with more times than can be protected the territory-

– As for such a thing, I did not know that. But I would like to say that there is an alternative to that.

– An alternative!

Surprised, Bratt says raising his voice.

– We, who belong to Little Garden, are to protect you. Hayato, the memorandum –

– O, okay...

Hayato took the letter that was given by the president out of his pocket and handed it to Emilia who was next to him.

– Otou-sama, read this please.

Emilia approached the king's bed and handed the letter to him personally.

King Granald opened his contents and glanced at it. While Emilia was talking about the contents inside her.

– If a crisis comes to Gudenburg, and if the current forces are not enough, Slayers will be dispatched at no cost. That is the proposal of Little Garden, which is the memorandum from its representative, Claire Harvey. However, this will only be done if I remain a student of Little Garden. About what will happen after graduation, appears on the next page. Please, read it.

At the request of Emilia, King Granald turns the page.

– Even after my graduation there, to Gudenburg will be donated a 'Variable Stone', a learning center with Slayers of excellence, and if allowed, the company of Warslan will build a training school, as well as the dispatch of troops of Slayer without charge, as it is written there.

– Indeed, everything that Emilia said appears written here.

– But, if we include Little Garden soldiers and their support to our country, our relations with neighboring countries will worsen, and even if you think of national defense, it is better to leave it to the Federation than to forces from outside...

– Bratt!

– Y-yes!

Without taking his eyes off and with a stern look, King Granald approached Bratt and whispered in his ear.

– Father and daughter have not seen each other for a long time, could you please retire now?

– But, your majesty...

He did not want to concede

It could be seen written all over Bratt's face.

– I'm requesting it to you.

– I understand...

After being pressed, Bratt lowered his head and walked past Hayato's side and moved his legs toward the door. On his way as he passes between them, Bratt glances menacingly.

– Hayato, do not worry about him.

– O-okay...

Emilia whispered in his ear.

It is clearly demonstrated that the Prime Minister is against nulling the engagement.

– Emilia, come to my side.

When Bratt left the bedroom, the King spoke.

– At once, Otou-sama.

Emilia answered as she stood beside her father.

Do not bother.

Hayato stood in his position and saw how father and daughter interacted.

– Show me your face more closely.

At that, Emilia looked at King Granald. Then the King touched Emilia's face with his palm.

– You really look a lot like Remilia.

– Okaa-sama?\*

\*TN: In case you ask, it refers to Emilia's mother.

With a nod, the king continued.

I really had problems with Remilia, we had very difficult times. And in the end, I was not with her at the time of her death. That's why Emilia... I really, I want you to be happy.

– Otou-sama...

– That's why I wanted you to go back to the palace, and I accepted Bratt's proposal for that compromise. But I was wrong. Emilia, please forgive me.

For a moment there was a brief silence.

The king, who was chewing something, looked from the distance toward Hayato's direction.

– Kisaragi Hayato-kun.

– Eh yes.

Hayato answered hastily, being suddenly shaken.

– The proposal sent from Little Garden, I will be delighted to accept it.

– Oh...!

Understanding what he suddenly said was something very unexpected.

– So...

Emilia's expression shone incredibly.

– As for the engagement related to Wenz, let us do our best to null it.

– For real!

Emilia flies to the bed where King Granald is.

– Thank you, Otou-sama! I love you!

The King caresses the head of Emilia. For Hayato, this figure, rather than that of a king, is that of a father.

– And one more thing...

Staring into Hayato's eyes, the King continued.

– Hayato-kun, take care of Emilia.

Those words weighed heavily on Hayato's shoulders.

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– How was your reunion after a long time with your father?

On leaving the King's bedroom, Kate, who was waiting in front of the door, approached.

– I am relieved to know that it went better than I expected, and what is more, Otou-sama has approved the relationship between Hayato and myself.

– Hey, what are you saying...?

Hayato's face filled with discomfort.

– You were asked to take care of me, were not you?

– Certainly that is what he said, but in the end we are not a couple isn't–

- Don't say it, Hayato!

Emilia covers Hayato's mouth.

- We do not know who could hear this.

Certainly before that, Hayato stopped resisting.

- Apparently on the subject of engagement...
- Otou-sama, has said he will break the engagement with Wenz.
- Hime-sama, I'm glad you did!

It was Kate who gave a voice of joy. On the other hand, the expression of Claudia who waited in front of the door remained a little cloudy.

- It's too early to be celebrating.
- What do you mean, Claudia-sama?

– The compromise between Emilia and Douglas was established by mutual agreement between the Kingdom of Gudenburg and the Kingdom of Wenz. Therefore, should it be annulled, it must first be approved by Wenz, and will they accept it...? As a result, even knowing this, that nullifying it under these circumstances, I do not know what kind of compensation they will ask for.

– That will surely be handled by Otou-sama. Besides, it's an issue that does not concern me. Those who decided to make a marriage engagement without my authorization have to take responsibility.

At that moment, the figure of the Minister who stared at him as he passed near him went through Hayato's head.

Surely he will be one of those who takes responsibility.

- Other than that, I have something to ask to Kate and Claudia.
- What is it that you desire?
- What do you want?

Kate and Claudia asked, one after another.

– I would like to go out on a date with Hayato, but I am in these clothes today and I would like to change. Of course Hayato too.

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– Hmm, somehow, I cannot remain calm...

It was too flashy to be dressed in Little Garden's uniforms, which is why Hayato wears a white shirt, a red bow tie, black cloth trousers and black slacks, that is, he's dressed as a gentleman, and is waiting outside the room where Emilia is changing her clothes.

The suit feels pretty tight, because I'm not used to wearing clothes like that. In a way, I can understand the feeling of Emilia when I put myself in the place of her, having to wear such flashy clothes\* a while back.

**\* TN: The word used is フリフリ “furifuri”, whose google search casts different types of costumes.**

In addition, women take a long time to change their clothes.

About five minutes passed since Hayato changed his clothes, when the door where Emilia was changing finally opened.

– Thanks for waiting, Hayato.

Talking about Emilia's dress, this was a white one-piece suit, which contained fewer decorations, compared to the dress she used previously.

– You, that costume...

– Ehehe, you recognize it?

– As for that, I've recovered a lot of my memories.

The dress he saw Emilia in looks exactly like the one he saw when they met in Gudenburg years ago.

– Okay then, now that we’ve finished changing clothes, let’s start our date—eh, before that, Claudia.

Emilia looks at Claudia who helped her change clothes.

– What, what is it that you need?

– I’ll just say it once and it’s about surveillance, but we do not need you to follow us.

– EEHH!?

– And of course we will not need bodyguards.

– But why?

– Because you’ll be a nuisance. Besides, Hayato and I are Slayers, so we can do anything. We do not need something like that.

– That’s true, but...

Claudia had no arguments against that.

A big smile spread over Emilia’s face.

– Of course Kate will not do any unnecessary action.

– That is correct. I do not want to be hated by Hime-sama.

– In that case, we’re leaving!

With that said, Emilia took Hayato’s hand.

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Together with Hayato, they left the palace, boarded a bus and went to the older part of the city of Gudenburg.

– This neighborhood has changed considerably.

Hayato got off the bus and could not believe the view that was in front of him, and which could not have imagined ten years ago. Each building was new and modern.



– The oldest buildings collapsed almost completely when the < <Second Encounter> > *Second Attack* occurred. The buildings you see here, are the result of the reconstruction of them. In spite of being called “Ancient town”, in fact, it owns constructions that are newer than the center of the city.

Abruptly, Emilia stopped walking, when she crossed the street.

– Oh! Wait, look what’s there.

Beyond his gaze was a stall selling ice cream cones

– Do you remember, Hayato? We used to buy ice cream cones there and we ate them together.

Immediately upon hearing that, the memories of the past come back to life once more.

– If you say so, I think that such a thing really happened...

– I still remember. The first thing we ate together, the day after we met for the first time. Hayato had chosen a cone of ice cream for me, because I had left my purse in the mansion, since I had sneaked out of there.

– Oh!

Memories that resurface from the depths of the mind.

– That’s right, the feeling that you’re the same girl as that time.

– Do I look weird? Now that I’m wearing this beautiful dress?

– Not at all, certainly I think that you look beautiful, but...

– Then, what’s the difference?

– I think that maybe, you should act more like a girl?

– Eh... that... the thing is, that has a motive.

– And what would be?

– Because in Little Garden, I had to act in a masculine way, to keep my secret from being revealed.

– If that's the case, then what about now?

– Now?

– I think it's enough that you keep on expressing yourself as a man, even though...

The night of the festival.

That time Emilia said [Watashi]\* behind the school building of the Slayers.

**\*TN: Watashi [私] is the feminine or formal form of the first person “I”.**

But then, she again expressed herself by saying [Boku\*].

**\*TN: Boku [僕] is the masculine form of naming oneself. There is also Ore [俺], which is more informal.**

The only difference was when she was in front of her father.

– That I express myself more femininely? So how about this, Kisaragi Hayato?

– That, as far as femininity, will not be achieved by mimicking the president...

– I thought Hayato liked this kind of thing.

– What are you saying!?

– Ah! Have you become impatient? Hayato likes the president! While I'm only the childhood friend!

– You're wrong. That's not the problem, you're the way you are, I mean, that's fine.

– Who are you trying to fool now?

– It's not that. Living in a palace, in a place like this, when you were talking to your father in that way, it was as if the one who was speaking was an Ojou-sama, I had the feeling that this person belonged to another world. But at that moment, I did not say anything.

– I see ... if that's the case, let's leave it as it is. To be honest, this way I feel more comfortable, 'Boku'

– In other words, does not that mean that now this land is yours?

– Uu, Hayato is mean.

– Leaving that aside, what you want to do? Do you want me to buy ice cream cones? Maybe it's not the best time, since it's not hot today though.

– It's ok! Buy, buy, buy!

Hayato approached the stall selling ice cream cones along with Emilia, who nodded many times, submerged in joy.

– Give me two, please.

It was Hayato who ordered. And Hayato was also the one who paid. Apparently he could not pay by card, so he used the coins when making the change in advance before he reached Gudenburg.

– Thank you, Hayato.

Emilia replied with a smile and then called the salesman who was preparing the ice cream cones.

– Sir, Did you use to sell ice cream cones here before the Second Attack, right?

– Oh, miss, you were my client that time.

Hayato does not remember at all, but Emilia's memories seemed to be fine.

The salesman then opened his eyes and his mouth widely,

– Oh! Now I remember, this kid here. Oriental youths are very rare here. He came very often to buy at that time, but since the incident occurred, he never appeared again, I was quite worried. But you're alive. I'm really happy.

– I do not live in Gudenburg now, but I came back here after a long time with him.

– I see, I see. In that case, let me serve you a large portion of ice cream. Look! This is for the young lady.

– Uwaaa! It's gigantic!

Incredible, the height of the cream reaches twenty centimeters.

– Be careful that you do not spill over, brother.

– Thank you.

.Hayato received the ice cream cone that was the same size as Emilia.

– If you feel like it, please come back whenever you want.

– Yup, when we return to Gudenburg, we will.

After leaving the store, they began to walk.

– After all this cone of ice cream, is delicious.

– Yeah.

Answered Hayato.

– What do you want to do now? Do you want to go to the park?

– Of course.

He answered at the same time he nodded.

As they walked licking their ice cream cones, they walked with their shoulders next to each other, until the park became visible.

– The park went through a restoration and seems to have been identical to the past.

As she says that, Emilia takes a step toward the park.

– I agree.

Hayato and Emilia sit on a bench like in the old days.

– When I do this, I feel that I traveled ten years ago.

Said Hayato.

– However, I was suddenly in trouble when the Savage were attacking.

-That is not something to laugh at.

She tentatively sketches an ironic smile.

– I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I remember, there's a scar left that time.

– You mean the scar on your chest?

– Yeah, since I got to live in Little Garden, the mark has begun to disappear. Do you want to corroborate it now?

– EEH!?

A loud, stunned voice emitted Hayato, while Emilia put her hands on her dress.

– Ahahaha, it's a joke.

Emilia laughed.

Apparently he's been the victim of a prank.

– Charo says that the wound, which in a beginning was said that would not disappear for the rest of my life, has become to this because of the environment that exists in Little Garden which is made to increase the immune power of the Slayers, and may be due to the state of mind.

– State of mind?\*

\*TN: 気の持ちよう kinomochiyou.

– Correct, state of mind.

With that said, Emilia touched the top of her dress and rubbed where the wound was.

– This scar somehow reinforced the bond between Hayato and me. That is why, sometimes I have thought that I do not want it to disappear. However, now that I've been able to start again with Hayato, I don't need it anymore.

– Hey, what do you mean...

– Which reminds me that, that day, this is what I really wanted to do to Hayato.

– Hey! What are you doing so suddenly!?

\*CHUTTO\*, Emilia kisses his cheek, and with it Hayato's face becomes extremely red.

– Mou, how can you feel ashamed by such a thing? We are no longer children. Do you not remember the other day?

– The other day—

– When we kissed on the mouth.

Emilia put the tip of her fingers on her lips as she said that. That gesture is extremely charming, Hayato skipped a beat.

– What are you going to do? Why do not you try these?

– No, that's fine. But, why did you not kiss me on the cheek that day?

– Because on the morning of the next day, it was planned that Hayato should return to Yamato. That's why I wanted to try to leave him a farewell kiss. That day my heart was beating so hard

that I could not sleep... that's why I came to lie down on the bench.

– That's what I can remember too.

Saying it, he could remember

It was true. On the morning of the following day, Hayato was scheduled to return to Yamato.

– I did not like having to separate from Hayato, my heart was breaking. And so, to see you once more, I wanted to give you a kiss as a good luck charm. But, we could not meet.

Smiling, Emilia moves her hands over and over.

– Hey... hey... you...

– Hey, Hayato. We have already presented ourselves to my Otou-sama as a couple with a promise of marriage. Would it be bad if that were true?

Emilia stared at Hayato's face and said that.

– Hey, wait a minute...

– No, look at me.

Saying that, Emilia put her hands on Hayato's face.

– Uu...

Hayato was forced to see Emilia in front of him.

Then Emilia began to bring her face closer.

– Emilia, please, stop ... not just the president, but also Dr. Charlotte have asked us to avoid having too much contact, since there are parts that are not fully comprehended about what might happen if there is interaction between two Variant.

– We are fine. So far nothing has happened. The Variant Virus is stable.

As she said that, Emilia was getting closer and closer. But there was an electronic sound that emitted the PDA that was in the pocket of the skirt of Emilia that moved the two people away.

– Aaa why, we were just at the best part. Who the hell dares to call!

As she showed her frustration with a sharp tone, Emilia took the PDA from her pocket.

– Claudia? What does she want now?

Even demonstrating her displeasure with her lips, Emilia accepted the incoming call.

– Hello, Claudia? There's something wrong?

Emilia answers the phone with a grumpy appearance. Then the voice of Claudia is heard, which is strong enough even to be heard by Hayato.

– I'm sorry, Emilia-sama. But there is a serious problem! You must return to the palace as soon as possible!

\*\*\*

– Long time no see, Princess Emilia. I'm truly delighted to see you again, that I feel I can ascend to heaven.

The person who was waiting for Emilia to come to the palace was a young man with silver hair and dressed like royalty. His name was Douglas Edward Wenz. The third prince of the kingdom of Wenz. And the man who was Emilia's fiancé. Beside him was the figure of Gudenburg's Prime Minister, Bratt Fitzroy, who was the person he met when he visited the King.

– Why did Douglas come to the palace!?

– I heard the rumor that Princess Emilia had returned to Gudenburg, and I had the privilege to come here.

Saying that, Douglas knelt down, trying to hold Emilia's hand.



– Stop!

Emilia shouted, taking her hand away from there just before Douglas could take it.

– Why did you do something like that? Are we not that engaged?

Surprised, with an expression that seemed to be very exaggerated, he presented his doubt to Emilia.

– Have not you heard anything from Bratt yet? Not long ago I consulted my Otou-sama if it was possible to get rid of this engagement, and so Otou-sama accepted.

– I had heard that.

With an expression that tightened his face, Douglas continued talking.

– Princess Emilia, I cannot believe you chose that man, Kisaragi Hayato, over me. Is that true?

– It is true. I love\* Hayato.

**\* TN: It says: 大好き = daisuki, which is (I like it a lot), it is a “loving” softer than aishiteru, but the latter is practically not used, unless it is private since it has a very strong connotation.**

– Hey, Hey, Emilia...!?

Hayato is perplexed, since Emilia links their arms together.

Looking at the two of them, Douglas makes his teeth grind with frustration.

– ...I see. If she is able to say something like that, then I have no other choice than myself, to prove if Kisaragi Hayato really is a man fit for Princess Emilia.

Saying that, he deploys his armament.

– HUNDRED ON!

The ring in his right hand shines, and becomes a <Red long sword> *Broadsword*.

His armament appeared to be similar to Hayato's Chevalier type. Then he points with the edge of his sword, <<Glorious Crimson>>, *Red Glory*, to Hayato.

– Hey, Douglas, what do you think you're doing!?

Emilia shouted.

– It's a challenge to a duel.

– Duel?

As he stared at Hayato, Douglas declared.

– The wife of a Slayer, must have the same skills as the Slayer. You know what it is necessary for the future of mankind. I'd like you to show me if your ability is suitable for it.

– Hold on, Douglas. I like Hayato, I do not care if he's not the best Slayer that exists!

– Please wait, Princess Emilia. This duel will also be beneficial to you.

It was Bratt who stepped in and spoke from the side.

– What is it you're talking about, Bratt?

– Douglas-sama said: "If Kisaragi Hayato is victorious in the duel, we will give up the engagement to Princess Emilia."

– Is that true?

– I swear by the gods of heaven and earth.

At Emilia's question, Douglas replied with his head down.

– But, in case I win the duel, Princess Emilia will return to Gudenburg, and she will marry me. If, on the contrary, you reject it, for the next ten years, 80% of the distribution of the Savage cores

and the Variable Stone, which the United Nations gives to the kingdom of Gudenburg, will be received by my Kingdom, the Kingdom of Wenz. That would be the cost of canceling the engagement.

– How can you ask for something like that!?

Claudia screamed hysterically.

– Such a demand, it is impossible to accept! In addition to suffering an economic loss, the military force will also fall, the position that the Kingdom of Gudenburg has within Britannia will vanish!

– H-Hey, Emilia...

What to do, Hayato looks into Emilia's eyes. Hayato is totally unaware of the ability of that guy. It is impossible to judge by just seeing it.

– It's too bustling inside, what is happening in here?

It was the voice of a transparent woman who dominated the place with a few words.

In addition to Hayato and Emilia, Douglas, Bratt, Claudia and Kate who were also in that place looked in the direction from which came that voice.

Who was there was a woman in a white dress with a high hood, where a thin cloth that hung from that covered the upper half of her face, and on both sides of her, wearing short skirts, were two young ladies wearing habits of black color that gave the impression that allowed them to have a better mobility.

The voice belonged to the woman in the center with the hood.

The three people walked from the back of the palace in the direction of Hayato and company.

– This is the royal palace, the king's residence! Is not a place to withdraw and swing your weapon!

– Who do you think you are! Do not you know who I am!

Douglas moved the tip of his sword that was in the direction of Hayato toward the person in the white habit. The thin cloth breaks and her face is exposed.

Pale, blond hair. It was a beautiful woman whose face had perfect features. At the same time, the young women standing next to her shouted with their hands holding the crucifix on her chest.

– HUNDRED ON!!

The crucifix turns into golden particles and then a giant halberd forms in their hands.

The girls then point their weapons at Douglas.

– Lower your weapons.

The woman in the white habit said.

– Are you sure?

– Do not worry, cancel your armaments.

The two girls listened to the words and they dematerialized the armament.

– The person who calls himself the Prince of Wenz, is a wild one.

Then the woman dressed in white continued, addressing her words to Douglas.

– ...So if you know me, why that attitude? Tell me what your name is!

– I'm going to ask you to lower your weapon first, please.

– Answer my question!

– It can't be helped.

The woman in a white habit murmured as if she were surprised,

and then she moved the palm of her hand toward Douglas.

– Fly, vulgar.

Then Douglas's body flew a couple of meters and crashed into the wall.

– What? What was that? What the hell are you, damn it!!?

Using his sword as a cane, Douglas staggered to his feet. In his face, one could see the expression of terror emanating from him.



That would be natural. No one could understand what she did, not even Hayato or Emilia.

– I am Serivia Notredame, Paul III. The current Pontiff of the < <Holy Church> > Puritaria.

– Re-really...?

Hearing that name, Douglas's eyes widened. Hayato is the same.

Speaking of the Pontiff, representative of Puritaria, is a religious leader capable of having the same authority as the king of a country.

– Impossible, to think that the Pope was a woman...

Emilia murmured spontaneously.

– Is it so strange?

The pontiff smiled and continued.

– There were moments in the past when the Pope were women... Although, this was kept in complete secrecy. In addition, it is supposed that the Pope should not expose their face to the public.

– Serivia-sama, the other one is over there.

The one that spoke was the girl standing on the right side of the Pope.

– Understood.

In response, Serivia looked to where the girl standing on her right side was pointing her finger, and focused her gaze.

– Those people who feel hostility towards us, we ask you, please, immediately release your arms and throw them in front of us.

Hayato could not understand the meaning of those words. Because it turns out that where she looked at, there was no one.

– It can't be helped. There is no alternative but to respond to animals than being an animal per se.

By saying that and from her right hand, Serivia made appear a dagger that emitted light.

(What will she do now?)

It did not appear to be a materialized weapon. She also did not say a keyword.

The pontiff threw the dagger at the wall. But it didn't land on it. It made a loud noise in the air and then fell to the ground. Then a silver-haired girl in a black helmet and suit suddenly appeared in that place.

Before mentioned woman, Serivia said.

– Apparently, your Hundred has the ability to capture the surrounding and reflect it on your Variable Suit. It is best to be used as a guard.

– !!

The black-clad woman gritted her teeth, unable to say anything.

– Is she one of your subordinates, third prince of Wenz?

– Tch, of course, it is only natural for me, the third prince of a country, to have bodyguards around me!

At the same time Douglas shouted, the door through which Serivia entered opened again.

– Who will enter now?

– Your Majesty!

Cried Bratt.

– Are you OK?

Bratt hurried to King Granald who was walking hard, and used his body for support.

– I'm really sorry, King Granald. Although I came to visit you, this became a mess. Is your body feeling better already?

– Do not worry, Your Holiness-sama, I feel better for now. What's important, what kind of situation is this, Bratt? In addition, you...



The sight of King Granard is headed toward Douglas.

Douglas then knelt down and introduced himself to the king.

– I am the third son of the Emperor of the Kingdom of Wenz, Douglas Edward Wenz. Today, I heard that Princess Emilia had returned to Gudenburg, and that she had requested the annulment of the marriage engagement, so I hastened to come here.

– That's what this is about...

Apparently they could understand the situation in general.

Then followed Bratt supporting the above.

– However, the attempt of Douglas-dono was in vain, since the princess Emilia wants to annul in any way her engagement with Douglas-dono. That's why the fuss...

– His majesty, all that Douglas-dono said, that if the compromise is annulled, for the next decade, 80% of the Savage cores and the 'Variable Stone' sent by the United Nations to the Kingdom of Gudenburg will go to the Kingdom of Wenz.

It is Claudia who said that with a certain level of indignation.

Similarly, King Granald's expression becomes stiff at this.

– Bratt, is that true, about the conditions regarding cancellation of the engagement? Although I regret it a lot, I do not find that the demand really is so exacerbated.

– This is the case where it cannot be resolved by a duel.

– ... A duel, that's...?

-That is so. If it is possible for you to see a duel between Kisaragi Hayato and me, then it is certain that Emilia-Hime will fall in love with me. That is why I have such confidence, that I request to you the possibility of authorizing the duel between Kisaragi Hayato and myself.

- That is absolutely impossible!
- In other words, Princess Emilia, do you mean to give up?
- What do you say, I never said anything like that!

– I get it. His majesty also seems to show signs of disapproval, so let's change the condition. If Kisaragi Hayato accepts a duel with me, regardless of the result, to that point the engagement is already ruled out. But, if I win against Kisaragi Hayato, as a change to the aforementioned condition, you will promote me as Commander of the Slayer troops of the Allied Forces of the Federation of Britannia.

- What, what things are you saying, you!

It is Claudia who interrupts by raising her voice.

. – That request is also unthinkable. Not only limited to the management of Allied Forces Slayer, the commander of all units, is a position occupied by people from the sovereign country, which is Gudenburg. It is impossible to consider it from a perspective for national defense and even less, the people of Gudenburg will definitely not approve! Even the Prime Ministers, to this day, have never come from Wenz!

- You certainly cannot say the same thing, Miss.

Who said that was the Prime Minister, Bratt.

– ...But your Majesty, he has certainly abandoned the subject of concessions of his previous condition and now that we must fight against the Savages in all Britannia, if we have Douglas-dono who is the third prince of Wenz leading the troops of Slayers, who also in his country possesses many excellent Slayers, if you think about it's not bad at all. Wenz's position as first commander would not be a bad compensation given that his name has been stained up by the abandonment of the engagement. In addition to—.

Bratt's gaze is directed toward Hayato.

– As a result of new research, isn't Hayato-dono an extraordinary and excellent Slayer within Little Garden? If he defeated Hayato-

dono in a duel and takes victory, then it is more than likely that the inhabitants of Gudenburg will agree with it.

After hearing those words, Emilia thinks that Bratt is a type of guru.

The political party of which Bratt is the representative brings political ideas like the subject of reconciliation with the Kingdom of Wenz, besides that receives a strong support from the royal family of Wenz. That is why he has such a deep relationship with Douglas. And there may be the possibility of a secret pact with the royal family of Wenz, from which he could have obtained the cooperation in the election as Prime Minister, so as to eventually give some sort of position to the royal family of Wenz.

– I see. If Hayato-kun is okay with it, I'll acknowledge the duel.

– Your Majesty, are you serious?

Claudia shouted.

There is no other way if it is to break the engagement. In addition, Britannia United\* is one of the most beloved wishes of the Federation of Britannia, and a dream for me that has a few years of life left.

**\* TN: Says “O-ru Buritania, All Brittania, it sounds bad but that’s how It is in the raw.**

– Knowing and respecting each other’s country, it is essentially true that those who have an innate ability are born with it or come from a certain family, but have a sense of strong responsibility, and are truly righteous. What about you, Hayato-kun?

When asked, Hayato set his eyes on Emilia. She suddenly nodded.

– Very well, I agree.

Hayato said firmly.

– When is the date of the duel?

Douglas answers Emilia's question.

– What do you think about tomorrow at noon?

– Hayato do you agree to that?

– Yes, no problem.

He agrees and nods.

– Even though I'm not directly involved with this, would it be possible to join me as a spectator?

– Huh...?

All members present there were surprised, of course Hayato too, seeing that Serivia was getting into the discussion.

– No no, for the Pope attending that kind of—.

It was Bratt who said that with some bashfulness.

– There is no need to feel insecure. The agenda we had occupied for today, and since tomorrow there is nothing, we will have the privilege of being able to stay here, in the palace, tonight. I want to express my most sincere thanks and-

– Are you completely sure?

It is King Granald who calls her attention, requesting an answer.

– That's right, there is no problem.

Serivia replied immediately and continued.

– It's because I want to see the excellent Slayer of Little Garden and the Prince of Wenz, that turns out to be also the Kingdom of Slayers.

– Serivia-sama. It's almost time for the next plan.

The girls on either side of Serivia spoke one after another.

– Oh my oh my, I see. Very well then, if you will excuse us, we will retire. Kisaragi Hayato and Princess Emilia, you will stay here in the palace, correct? Then we are likely to see each other again. At that moment, I will be under your care.

As she said that, Serivia would leave the palace next to the two followers.

– Very well, if you'll excuse me.

Douglas takes the woman who is his escort and leaves the palace.

– Princess Emilia.

Just when she crossed over to Emilia and Hayato.

– Certainly that man, of course, there is nothing special to come from Little Garden, I knew that immediately. In the same way I will be deeply alert as to my judgment may be wrong. Now if you want to resolve the issue of cancellation, please tell me as soon as possible. If you excuse me.

\*\*\*

– ... Even when I come to Gudenburg, I'll encounter a duel...

Hayato, who sits on a chair in a room, that looks quite similar to a luxury hotel, mutters as he looks up at the ceiling.

This is a guest room that is located on the second floor of the guest building on the west side of the palace where the king lives.

It is the room where Emilia will sleep today.

Originally, the royal family lives on the east side of the building, and although she was also living on the east side, Emilia said she did not want to go there, so Hayato decided to stay in the room next to it.

– First of all, let's inform the president.

Emilia, who hung Hayato's coat on the hanger at the entrance to

the bedroom, took the Tablet PC from the briefcase that had previously been transported to this place.

– You're right.

The purpose of Hayato's visit to Emilia's room was to report themselves.

Emilia put the tablet on a small round table in front of him and sat in the chair next to Hayato. And together they look towards the Tablet. But Hayato does not get along with machines, so it's Emilia who operates the device. It changed the state of the switch to on and the application launched the communication that makes the call to the president. After two dialing tones, communication was established. The appearance of the president is displayed on the tablet.

[Thank you for keeping in touch..., you, what happened to you, that appearance...]

Hayato remembers that they are not currently wearing Little Garden uniforms.

– Well, a lot of things happened.

\*Ahaha\* laughed Emilia, trying to hide what happened and continued.

– Leaving that aside, we have things to report but, so many events have happened that it has all become really chaotic.

[Chaotic? But what happened there?]

Then Hayato began to relate the facts, putting them in order, from his arrival in Gudenburg.

It was reported that Emilia's father was better than he thought, since he accepted Little Garden's proposal, and said he would nullify her engagement. However, there was one person opposed to this, her fiancée Douglas, who said he would not accept the abandonment of the engagement.

If that was done, then for the next decade 80% of both the Variable Stone and the cores that were obtained from the Savages, which the United Nations destined to the Kingdom of Gudenburg, had to be transferred to the Kingdom of Wenz.

[That's a highly complicated demand. It would put even Little Garden in trouble]

If you wish to send a Slayer without cost to Gudenburg, then you could send the Variable Stone and the Savage cores as a thank you to Little Garden.

– But, that is already in the past. On the other hand, Hayato has to face Douglas tomorrow.

[Please wait a moment. A battle? What, couldn't you have talk about it?]

– Well, it's just... that...

Hayato continues with the summary.

While they were in the middle of the dispute with Douglas on the subject of the demand, and as a goal to visit the king who was sick, they met the Pope of the < < Sacred Church > > Puritaria.

Then in the middle of the conversation the king appeared, and if Hayato accepted the duel, the matter related to the cancellation of the engagement was over. But if Hayato loses, then Douglas will serve as Commander of the Slayers of the Allied Forces of the Federation of Britannia.

[So it was the Pope of < < Sacred Church > > Puritaria]

– It seems that she came to see the king who was sick. President do you know this person?

[No, I have not met her in person. But, being a person with a very high magical power, I have not heard much about it. It is known that she possesses a skill that exceeds human knowledge, very different from the five types of sensory organs that the human being possesses that are that of vision, hearing, touch, taste and smell,

which is cataloged as the sixth sense, with which she predicted the < <Second Encounter> > *Second Attack*. That is, you did not know about that?]

– Now that you mention it, I’ve heard something about it...

[Leaving that aside, let’s go back to the main topic. In other words, there was no other option but to accept the duel in order to annul the engagement, is that not so?]

Seeing Hayato that says “Yes,” Claire sighs heavily.

[If that’s the case, it’s because there was no alternative. There is no choice but to carry out the duel. Needless to say you should take the victory anyway. Understood? ]

– Yes, of course.

Hayato answered firmly.

[A good answer. They may have some information there, but I will send to you the personal information about Douglas Edward Wenz through the Little Garden Intelligence Department in a few minutes]

About ten minutes passed since the report with the president ended when an incoming call appeared on the Tablet PC. It was a call from Charlotte. Emilia accepted it.

– What happened Charlotte?

[No matter where you go, things always happen.]

As soon as the face of Charlotte suddenly appeared on the Tablet PC, she talked and continued.

[I have to show you the information of Douglas Edward Wenz that was previously compiled by the Department of Intelligence, but there are certain points that are of concern. So I thought I’d give them some brief advice about them. Now I’ll send you the information, so wait a moment.]

The screen changes and Douglas’s personal information is



displayed.

Hayato stares at it as if trying to devour all that information.

[As you can see, the reaction value of his Hundred is acceptable, and of course his average skill power is quite high—even reaching values like Liddy's. But it does not go beyond that. He has never fought against the Savage, even being royalty, and it is because it is unnecessary for them, to avoid any danger. On the contrary, has never participated in an official game, there are no records of that. Certainly, it may not be the most powerful Slayer from Wenz. However, there are reports that so far, he has not lost a single duel]

– How can that person be the strongest if he has never fought against anyone?

[Um, no, it's not that. Despite the fact that the spread information has little time to really be as it says he is, but apparently he is capable of performing 'Dual Act']

– Are you sure of it?

Emilia raised her voice, surprised.

– 'Dual Act' It is that which allows Hundred to be deployed simultaneously, if I am not mistaken?

As he remembered what they had learned in class, Hayato replied in the form of a question:

[Indeed it is so]

Charlotte nodded.

[Apparently he did not let others realize this in the middle of the battle, and deployed another Hundred that completely pierced the defense of his opponent, giving him victory]

– Doesn't that sound like cheating?

He really is a person who likes to play dirty

If he had not heard it here, Hayato would have been really surprised at the time of the duel.

[Currently, there is no restriction as to the number of Hundred that can be deployed in battles or simulated combats, carried by a country or organization. First, Hayato-kun, did you know that there are not many Slayers who can do ‘Dual Act’?]

– Uhhh, I can certainly say that it is more difficult than full armament, I think...

[Exactly]

– Now that you say it, is he able to perform full armament?

[Looks like he can do it]

Charlotte answered Emilia’s doubt.

[Regarding the handling of his Hundred, he is considerably good at it]

– I understand.

After a few moments in silence, Emilia again opens her mouth.

– So, honestly, what do you think is the probability of victory, Charo?

[Including the fact that that person uses ‘Dual Act’, and now that you know about it, the probability that Hayato-kun wins exceeds 80%. Liza has given the same answer. Besides, he does not know about that ability of yours. That’s because that ability **is not written** in Hayato-kun’s Personal Information]

That ability, it refers to the skill related to Variant power.

– I see...

Releasing a long sigh of relief, Emilia continued.

– I am glad to know that the duel would not take place

immediately. Thanks to this, we were able to obtain this valuable information.

[Even so, do not think that your rival will not investigate about you. So do not neglect this, do not think it will be presented without having prepared something beforehand. I have to retire, visitors have arrived, so I have work to do. If you'll excuse me]

With those words, the connection with Charlotte was terminated.

– How can you tell me to accept the duel, and yet he has a skill you do not know about?

Once, she was his fiancée.

Hayato thought that she already knew it.

– That's because I've never been interested. Hayato is the only one I like. And I also thought that Hayato is absolutely more powerful. In fact, most of the data information says that they are higher for Hayato. Charo also said that you would definitely win.

– In truth, you are as optimistic as ever.

Hayato takes a deep breath.

– But you will not win unless you think you can win. As the saying goes: "Illness and health begin with the mind"\*. According to this, the Hundred have the same ability to react to the power of emotions. You should not think about defeat at all, but think about how important it is to gain victory in the duel.

**\*TN: Basically, it means that according to the disposition of the mind, it is how the body will react. If I want to feel good, my body will be fine.**

Emilia nods and reveals a big smile on her face.

\*Fuaaaa\* Hayato lets out a big yawn from his mouth.

– Are you sleepy, Hayato?

– Even though I’ve managed to get used to the aircraft, I could not sleep much in the sky.

– In that case, we’re going to lie down for a brief moment, and you have to remember that the duel is tomorrow. Let’s meet at 8 in the morning, the place will be here, my room.

\*\*\*

– Why would you call me to come to the arena at this hour?

Eight in the night. Standing at the center of the arena’s battlefield, is Claire Harvey, the queen dressed in her red Variable Suit. The person who she demands an answer from is Charlotte Dimandius, <Chief Technology Officer> *Main Technologist* at Little Garden, who stands next to her and holds a candy, as usual.

– Besides, why did she come here as well?

Claire’s line of sight is directed toward Kisaragi Hayato’s younger sister, Kisaragi Karen, who was sitting on the audience bench next to Fritz and Latia in their respective Variable Suit.

With a smile on her face, Charlotte replied.

– You will understand the reasons immediately. First, could you deploy your armament?

– ...I will do it.

Nodding, Claire flung her Hundred to the skies, which she held firmly in her hand.

– HUNDRED ON!!

Deployed Dragoon-type Hundred, < < Noble Combatant Princess> > *Alisterion*. Claire’s body was covered in red armor, and six floating batteries appeared around her.

– Then let’s begin. Begin, Mei Mei.

[Yes, master]

Mei Mei's voice reverberated across the area. She seemed to be in the control room that was in the distance, over the spectators. From the other side of the window, she raised her thumb.

(What do they intend to do now?)

While Claire wondered what was going to happen, from the waiting room in the arena, they heard \*GASHAN\* \*GASHAN\*, they were sounds that came from a machine.

– But what, what is this...?

At the sight of Claire, who had a look of surprise with her eyes wide open, she looked at the machine whose body had a length of three meters, a height of one meter and fifty centimeters, whose figure was that of an organism similar to that of a spider.

– Just as Vitaly Tynyanov tried to imitate the Savages with her < <Man Made Machine> > *Replicant*, I did the same, and did some versions of *Replicant* for Little Garden.

Charlotte responded with a sense of satisfaction, as if introducing her little child.

– Why did you want to do such a thing...?

– Why do you ask, that's because Vitaly did it, and I do not want to keep the regret that I didn't. If another person does, it is only natural that you feel that you also want to do it. As for the uses we can give to it, is it okay if we think about it later?

– So that's your answer. It can't be helped. Well then, I will have the privilege of being its opponent. Will Mei Mei be the one to operate that thing?

– No, once it enters combat mode, the control is automatic. That's why I called that girl, since I've considered the case where that goes frenzy. Kisaragi Karen's voice has the same power as Kirishima Sakura.

In other words, Karen apparently has the responsibility of holding the Savage in case it lose control.

– To prepare such level of support, it means that you have a high degree of confidence in the ability of the *Replicant*. Sounds good to me, then the opponent it's not insignificant.

– In that case, start the test.

As soon as Charlotte stepped out of the battlefield, the horn sounded all over the arena.

It was the signal that the battle had begun.

Coinciding with that, the *Replicant* opened its head and from there shot a lightning bolt in the direction of Claire. When Claire decided to make a jump to avoid it, then two wires were launched from above the shoulders.

(As I thought, the armament of the *Replicant* really is similar to those created by Vitaly)

As one can expect, it is reproduced perfectly by the scientist Charlotte. That is why, I assumed that would make such an attack.

Using the six floating weapons as < <Propulsion Equipment> > *Thrusters*, applied < <Acceleration> > to evade the wire, then aim with the weapon prepared in her right hand.

– This time the attack will come from here.

The beam that Claire emitted was splendid, it seemed to hit the *Replicant*. But what was before her eyes was that the beam had faded.

– What was that!?

[As you can see, that's a < <Protective Wall> > *Barrier*]

Charlotte, who finally settled next to Karen, saw that she, like Claire, had the same look of astonishment that Fritz and Latia.

[There you can see the difference that exists between the *Replicant* of Vitaly and the one that I have made. It is practically the same that is deployed in this arena and that is located in front of

the public. If the size of the ‘Variable Stone’ varies, it can be given many uses, since the size of the device to amplify the force that is emitted is also different, even if the intensity is not the same, and in case the attack consists of a beam of simple *Energy Sense*, as you have seen, the attack can be prevented]

Charlotte’s voice is heard by Claire through the wireless ring.

– So that was ... if that’s the case then.

Escaping the *Replicant* attacks, Claire fires the beam again from the weapon on her right arm. The attack is consumed by the barrier as before, but the attack is not yet over with this. This time, since the gun on her left arm shoots towards the back of his head. The shot splendid hits the *Replicant*.

(It struck him? Then that means that, the barrier can only be generated towards the front)

Turning her body in midair, Claire lands looking towards the front of the body of the *Replicant*.

– Let’s see how you take this!

Looking at the figure of Claire who discharged the six floating guns to the *Replicant*, Charlotte showed a somewhat complicated smile.

– Wow, despite being a test, you could tell in an instant. Should we admire the power of Princess-sama as usual?

– Dr. Charlotte. Why the laser has hit the *Replicant* right now?

Who asked was Fritz.

– It’s because the second shot was out of the line of sight. In addition, it was behind the device that generates the barrier. Ideally, it is the upper body that rotates and creates the barrier, but the sensor could not cope with the continuous attacks. So Claire took advantage of that moment. That is the case when it is a continuous attack. Try to keep looking.

According to Charlotte's words, the six floating batteries surrounded the *Replicant's* body and began firing lightning one after another. The *Replicant* tried to crush the batteries using the scissors of both arms, but it was impossible, it could not destroy a single one. Although some of the beams were cancelled by the barrier, a dozen rays emitted by the six floating batteries pierced the metal shell and made a number of holes in its body. Eventually, the legs collapsed, and the *Replicant* stopped moving. After that, the six floating batteries returned to Claire, to become small particles, and began to change its form to Claire's most deadly weapon, 'Buster Cannon'.

Claire then screams determined.

– It's time to finish this!

She fired a thick beam of light. This one penetrated the metal shell of the artificial Savage and made a great hole in it. Because of this it did not explode, but it does not move anymore.

– Incredible...

Karen murmured, who was on the audience's bench. Using the wireless ring, Charlotte speaks to Claire.

[You really are the Queen-sama, < < Completely Undeclared > > *Perfect Queen*. Even your movements that were programmed, your opponent could not do anything with you]

– Charlotte, perhaps you, considering the possibility that they were uncontrolled, did you make restrictions on their behavior and functions? If so, it was really very easy. For this level of skill, training for first year students who master weapons simply could do it.

[Please do not say that. I'm not a terrorist. Understand that we must develop this very carefully and go slowly like walking on thin ice. Also, now was just a warm up for what you will not defeat]

– Warm up? What do you mean?

[You will understand immediately]



When Charlotte said that, the door that connects the waiting room with the arena opened.

– ...?

Looking at the figure of Liddy who appeared there, Claire was left with her eyes wide with surprise, like Karen, who was sitting in the audience.

– Hey, what's that suit?

Looking at the armor with a giant winged form on Liddy's back, Claire asks her. But it was Charlotte, and not Liddy\*, who answered the question.

**\*TN: in the raw it was Claire who answered, well done editor.**

[It's a unit to fly in space]

– A unit to fly in space?

[As we are approaching the space age, I thought that it would be optimal to have something like Slayers weaponry that could make them move freely through the skies, and that's what I created]

– In other words, you mean that < < External Armor > > *Outer*?

[Exactly. < < Air Combat Armor > > *Air Ride* is what I called it. That is not all, as the Variable Stone is inserted, it is designed to connect with the extensions of the back, being able to attack using energy, and even to float, if possible. Liddy, please show us]

– Understood.

The pattern that was drawn on Liddy's wings begins to glow and radiates light, with which her body floats in the air, staying a distance of ten centimeters.

– What do you think? Although it has a *thruster* in its armament, unlike your floating weapons, whose acceleration in parallel is its main function, it was not a type that could move vertically or freely

in the air. But with this *Air Ride*, that difficulty can be surpassed. For that reason, a little while ago I was doing a < < Test of movement > > *Test*.

Charlotte showed a rather large smile and continued.



– In addition, since there were no long range weapons for use in space, you could not fight quite well, which is why I have decided to install weapons in the equipment. When one uses energy, the other will not use it, respectively. It is a system of one at a time.

Certainly, when looking closely the *Air Ride*, it has two turrets, one on each side, likewise has two missile launches, one on the left and the other on the right.

– Liddy, when did you start training with the Outer?

– Exactly since one week ago.

– In other words, the fact that the < < External Armor > > *Outer* also uses Variable Stone means that it's like you're using two Hundreds at the same time, is not it? And you could do it correctly in just one week. It's what you can expect from Liddy.

Claire stared in astonishment.

Then Liddy responded based on this.

– It is because in short, I just have to transmit the instructions to the Variable Stone, which is why, compared to *Dual Act*, it is not something complicated.

– Dyuaru Akuto?\*

**\*TN: She said it without knowing the word, it is usually written in Katakana, and she 'said' it in Hiragana.**

– 'Dual Act' is to make a double deploy.

Charlotte said, looking at Karen who inclined her head trying to understand what they were saying, sitting in the audience sector of the arena.

– As it was exactly said, try to deploy two Hundred simultaneously.

– Hee, to be able to do such a thing.

– Of course, that is not so simple.

The one who got into the conversation from the side was Latia.

– It is said that it is much more difficult to operate than a full armament, it is such the level, that there are not even ten people around the world, who are able to achieve it, of course I cannot either.

– ... However, as Liddy said earlier, it has less complexity than *Dual Act* because there is no need to maintain the shape of the weapon, but only to send instructions, but in practice, even in a hundredth of a second, if one's decision is not correct, the error can be potentially fatal. So if you really can make good decisions, the chosen instructions you give to < <Air Combat Armor> > *Air Ride*, that's the real test.

– Claire-sama, would you accept a duel with me?

– Of course yes. It's been a long time since we fought.

– It will be the first time in three years.

– That's right, close to that time has passed.

– I'm anxious to get started.

– I am too.

Claire and Liddy.

They are facing each other, about ten meters away and both smile.

– All right, let the fight begin. You two, are you ready?

At Charlotte's question, both nod at the same time.

The horn that rang in the arena indicated the start of the fight.

Claire is the one who takes the lead and points to Liddy with her six floating batteries, but Liddy does not care in the slightest of

them.

Accelerating using the propulsion of her *Air Ride*, and using her *Midgard Schrange* in her hand, she makes an attack on Claire. Claire operates all the way to her floating weapons.

If I manage to divert her concentration to another place, I should be able to stop her movement. That was Liddy's strategy.

Claire dodges Liddy's offense with a leap and releases a beam from the weapon in her arm. Liddy dodges it by taking a step back, then flew to Claire, and released two beams from the left and right side of her *Air Ride*. Claire then reduces to particles the weapon of her right hand, generates a barrier with one hand and stops the attack.

But that did not mean that Liddy's attack was over. Positioning her *Midgard Schrange*, She accelerated with the *Thrusters* of her *Air Ride*, and began her charge again.

– Uooooooooooooooooo!

The tip of the spear was approaching imminently.

– ... Ghaa!! This barrier needs more force!

In distress, Claire also reduces the weapon in left hand in particles and concentrates the energy of all its body in both hands to stop the penetrating attack of Liddy. However, it ends up being pushed by its power.

– Aaagh!

As it happened, the barrier was slightly crossed. But Claire does not allow this to continue. Control and mobilize the six floating batteries and shoot beams from Liddy's back. Of course, this was also in Liddy's calculations that Claire would make this move.

She pushes the spear, lifts it upwards, pointing toward the ceiling, and advances using the *Thrusters*.

On the other hand, Claire falls to the ground. Liddy then fires a

total of forty missiles from the missile launchers that are mounted on either side of the *Air Ride*.

– Haa, haa ... what did you think of that, Claire-sama?

A curtain of smoke rises. What can be seen as it appears from there is the figure of six floating batteries that defend Claire, with a form of tulip petals that surround her body.

– Haha, it was to be expected, if it is Claire-sama...

– I also think the same. It is something expected of Liddy. In a week, achieving such a level when using the external equipment, you have come very far. And before that, I have only to respond properly to that effort.

– ...!!

Unexpectedly, Liddy makes a gesture of pain, at the moment in which Claire's body releases energy intensely.

– Here I go, <Full Armament> *Perfect Form*!

Claire's full body is covered with a thick armor.

– From now on, I will play seriously. Go, petals!

From each of Claire's six floating weapons, two small floating weapons are fired. In total there are 12 small floating weapons.

(I really ... I think ... I grew to such a level for Claire-sama to fight seriously)

If I think of it in such a way, yes I have gone far. And I thought that while I was in combat, I was really impressed.

That was three years ago.

In a certain town in Liberia, at a training school for Slayer, Liddy had no rivals. One could say that she was a genius. Besides, she was not pretentious, she was only training day after day. And there were reasons for it.

During the *Second Attack*, her father had died. However, her father and mother did not register her, she was born as a result of an adulterous relationship, therefore, Liddy is then who is known as an illegitimate daughter. There was no money support, it was a mother, a child, two people living together. And worse, her mother had a rather weak body. Even so, she worked every day to keep Liddy alive. Her life was very miserable, like trying to get out of a spider web.

That's how this Slayer was formed. Liddy had talent in it. And she would absolutely not let it slip through her hands.

When making a space like one of the best Slayer of Liberia, she was able to make her mother to live in a better way.

That's the reason that she will not allow to be defeated by anyone.

She must still being the number one.

That was the reason Liddy devoted herself to practice hard every day.

And during that time, a girl appeared at <Training School> *Gym* where she resorted to go, accompanied by a large number of adults wearing military uniforms.

It was Claire Harvey. It was said that she was young and associated with the great company of Warslan.

– Is it possible if you point out to Liddy Steinberg?

She suddenly said her name. Although she was thrilled by what she had heard, without any fear, Liddy jumped in front of Claire.

– I'm Liddy Steinberg.

– So, you are Liddy Steinberg.

Looking at Liddy as if she were pricing her, Claire grabbed her Hundred from her Variable Suit and threw it with her fingers into the air.

– Hundred, ON!

A red armor covered Claire's body, and six floating batteries appeared around her.

(...It's a Dragoon type...)

Plus, it's an exclusive Hundred.

You could really say that she is a girl. It is very different from me who has no family. Even her skin is white and beautiful that seems to shine, not like mine.

– This is my Hundred < <Noble Princess of Battle> > *Alisterion*. Do you mind if you can show to me your armament?

Looking to Liddy, Clair said that.

– Do you plan to challenge me to a duel?\*

**\*TN: She says: 道場 破 ㇏ (doujouyaburi) = challenge a group and annihilate them.**

– Well, that's what it can be said.

As long as I can maintain an attitude that gives the best of me, I must have confidence in my ability. However, it does not seem that according to what I see, that going against others is a hobby of an Ojou-sama.

Hundred aims to destroy the Savage. It is not a toy that competes to see who is the strongest of humans.

– Hundred, ON!

Liddy materialized her Hundred.

– ...so it is a spear type.

– That's right, and it's a generic one, so it has no name.

Liddy readies her spear and Claire stares at her.



– Even so, I do not feel I can lose against you.

– Li, Liddy-san ... needs permission for the duel...

Someone appears in a hurried way, is a girl who wears glasses, and goes to the same training school.

– Obtained.

It was what the man in military uniform and was standing next to Claire said.

– To get a duel with Liddy Steinberg, permission has been obtained from the administrator of this training site.

– Dammit, what do you want? What do you want to achieve?

Liddy looks sharply at Claire.

One by one, they express themselves that they are displeased.

– I see. In that case, let's start the fight immediately. Depending on the situation, the damage in the surroundings could unravel.

– So, should we start the duel already?

Claire said after confirming that the other Slayer trainees and that her subordinates evacuated to a safe place.

Then, the duel did not last for more than a minute.

(It cannot be, this person ...)

Liddy remembered what terror was, seeing this golden-haired girl that she underestimated.

That she has such an overwhelming power.

She is a genius. It's the first time in her life that she experienced something like that.

It's a complete defeat.

(Damn it!)

It's completely annoying. She can feel nothing but mortification. Besides, she feels miserable.

There was nothing more important. It was inevitable, she could not feel more ridiculous. But the girl did nothing to ridicule her. On the contrary, she said something totally unexpected.

– Liddy, you're stronger than I expected. Don't you agree? What do you think about coming to Warslan together with me?

At the sudden invitation, Liddy stares with astonishment.

– What do you mean by—.

– Warslan Company, where my brother is the president, is planning to open Little Garden, a school institution for Slayer's training in just over a year.

– But why me?

– It's because you have the same power as I do. Is not that a satisfactory answer? Your skill is of such a level that, for the Slayers, it can be an example of learning and you can be their guide. Or am I wrong?

– Was it the purpose of the duel that you could corroborate that?

– It is as you say. What do you say, are you interested?

– Even so, I...

– ? What's the matter, is there a problem?

– It's because I live with my mother, we're both alone. I have plans to enter the army of Liberia and with it, to obtain money to be able to have sustenance for my mother...

– How much do you need?

– Eh...?

– I ask how much you need monthly. Although it would be a problem if you said you need something like \$50,000 dollars? If you decide to come to Little Garden, we will pay you more than what the Liberia Army offers you as a new recruit, even if you leave tomorrow. If you need to be paid an advance, you will also be paid that. Only, there is only one point. You are expected to respond to the < <Obligation of a person with power> > *Noblesse Oblige*.

– < <Obligation of a person with power> > *Noblesse Oblige*?

– That is, neither power, nor money, nor authority, nor knowledge, none of that really matters. Since one naturally must take everything one has and give the best, so with all that effort, make this world a much better. That is what I think is *Noblesse Oblige*.

At the same time that she heard those words, Liddy thought.

That woman, now that I understand, is the representation in person of *Noblesse Oblige*.

(If this person is, then it is okay to follow her)

As she thought about it, tears began to flood her face. Even now she remembers that.

– From now on, I will no longer have problems with money to be able to make my mother live better. From now on, please take care of me.

– Aha, of course.

Claire shook hands with Liddy's.

Then, since that day, Liddy has been involved with Claire in preparations for the Little Garden establishment.

(Since then, Claire-sama has been my goal. To be the same as her. In strength, endurance, magnificent, to become a great Slayer)

There's no need to win.

But what I want the most is to be recognized by Claire-sama.

– < < Defensive Barrier > > *Shelter* < < Propulsion Equipment > > Outer.

Liddy covers her body adhering to her < < Defensive Barrier > > *Shelter*, injects energy violently from the *Thruster* of her back and attacks with her maximum power in direction to Claire.

The rays emitted by the petals, all were annihilated by *Shelter*. But, the six floating weapons fired to a different objective. Many of the beams were heading for the *Air Ride*, in a few moments Liddy's barrier was destroyed and some of those hit her.

Even after all that, Liddy didn't give up.

She kept going forward despite the balance of her body was to collapse at any moment.

It's a situation that Claire had never imagined.

– Forgive me, Claire-sama!

– ...huh?

*Midgard Schrange* penetrated Claire's barrier and touched the armor that protected her chest.

– Kyaaaaa!

As a result, Claire's body was thrown back.

– Ouch, that was quite risky ... a little more, and it would have pierced the armor completely.

Claire, who was with her butt touching the ground, lifted the top of her body and looked directly at Liddy.

She was lying face down on the floor.

– Apparently, I have been the winner.

The armament was cancelled.

The Air Ride was in poor condition because of the beams fired by the floating arms of Claire. In addition to these beams, there were vestiges that the beams of the petals had struck Liddy's Variable Suit. This would have happened once the barrier was completely destroyed, causing the armament on the back to be cancelled. Claire releases her armor, and moves closer to Liddy's location.

– Are you all right, Liddy?

She sat down and touched her shoulder with her hand. As a reaction, the body moved agitatedly.

– Claire, sama...

Claire held out a hand to Liddy so she could get up.

– You've really grown stronger.

– Thank you, Claire-sama.

Liddy replied with prideful expression on her face.

\*\*\*

– Brothers, Are you all right? Now that I see your appearances, you are Slayers, isn't it?

– Ah?

Well late at night, a little before the day change. When he heard the voice that came from an alley in the town of Sangria, who turned around was a Slayer belonging to the army troops of Liberia, and was sent to Sangria to assist in the repairs of Little Garden. The person who spoke, wore a hoodie suspiciously black, that hoodie is worn by boys. Then, next to the man who was standing and who had called recently, there was a young Slayer, also belonging to the Liberian army troops, who turned to ask.

– Who are you? Do not you see that we are on duty? Or should I say better, what does a small fry like you do at this hour?

The Slayers have their faces red, and their way of walking is quite

rare.

And from their throats sounds like \*Hic\* \*Hic\* could be heard.

It had been four hours since the mission ended in Little Garden, which is why they were drinking alcohol in the street in the town of Sangria. Right now the troops were halfway to preparing to return to their resting places.

– What you want is an autograph? As you can see, we are in the street, but I'll do it anyway.

The young man laughs loudly. The reason he feels so generous is largely because of alcohol.

– No, it's not your autographs that I want, what I want are your Hundred.

– Huh?

– Hey you, what are you saying?

The young people look at the boy with a very serious face.

– I said what I want are your Hundred. Didn't you hear me?

Then the boy showed a very long smile, and his eyes shined with a golden color.

Three minutes later. The two people who were Slayer were lying on the road. One of them was wounded in the shoulder. The other bleeding from his chest, creating a pool of blood from where he lay on the ground. The boy then picked up the two Hundred who were there.

– Damn, who are you?

While he was collapsed, leaning back on the floor, pressing his shoulder that had an open wound, the young man asks in a cut voice.

– What kind of person am I? Onii-san really wants to know that?

The boy opens his mouth wide and swallows the two Hundred in his hand.

– Haaa, delicious. I really just live for this moment. This makes me feel great.

Releasing a breath of happiness, the boy smiled malevolently as he looked with his eyes at the trembling young man, then smile like the crescent moon.

– Well, should I continue with some exercise after eating? As for the people who know about my power, I have been told that they cannot go on living. If you want to blame someone, please hate the doctors who did not give me enough Hundred.

– Please, please stop...!

He noticed that a bright spear appeared in the hands of the boy.

As he leaned on his shoulder, the boy would not let the man try to crawl across the floor and escape.

– Die.

The boy throws the shiny spear.

Following the sounds of the spear that pierce the flesh, the screams of an agonizing death that echo in the night of the city are heard.

## Chapter 3: Girls in a day off / Homunculus / Plans and bad quality item

– Well, let's go!

Karen got on the bus with Rebecca and Aoi after saying goodbye to Mihal. The destination of the route is a control point that is linked to the city of Sangria. Although the port of Sangria is currently being maintained as a military port, it is impossible for a mega fleet like Little Garden to dock completely in the port. It is for this reason that, instead of docking, Little Garden is anchored in a distant position about five kilometers from the Zwei Islands.

From there a large number of <Warships> *Ships*, like aircraft carriers, are lined up in series forming very long bridges-commonly known as <ship bridges> > *Tree Ship*, where they come and go.

Although some of the <Warships> *Ships* are used as parking lots, after the terrorist attacks at the festival, the trips between Sangria and Little Garden have been severely restricted.

Therefore, basically the residents of Little Garden have no alternative but to come and go by bus.

– Regarding that, since she was transferred yesterday, I realized that she is not easy to approach. Even if I call her, I'm ignored ... but really, there's a big difference as far as Karen is concerned.

– Certainly she's a mysterious person, isn't it?

Aoi also thinks the same as Rebecca.

She is a transferred student who joined the course in the homeroom of the previous day.

– Nakri Olfred.



Even though she was introduced by her teacher saying her name, she did not say another word. Due to this, the classmates began to lose the accumulated interest, and the class turning in complete silence.

– This, should we look for a seat then?

The teacher then broke the silence.

– There's a free seat near the window, right? Sit there.

The available seat was behind Karen, since all other seats in the classroom were already occupied.

– Alright guys, since there is no particular topic to talk about, the homeroom is over. As with the addition of Karen-san last week, please get along with Nakri-san.

Needless to say, the atmosphere in the classroom is completely different than when Karen joined.

During the homeroom, and as there was a period of rest until the first hour of class, many classmates began to surround Karen, and although it became something serious, no person was placed around Nakri.

Perhaps, one of the reasons is that she emits a certain sensation, some kind of atmosphere that causes her to surround her whole body and that this prevents her from approaching her. Meanwhile, Rebecca, who with her cheerful way of being was not able to read the environment, tried many times to talk and greet Nakri, but in all of them, she was ignored.

In fact, Karen seems to understand why it would be the reason she is upset. Speaking of Karen, that time, she thought Nakri was a mysterious girl.

But last night, she knew from Kirishima Sakura that she- No, not only her, but also about the boy who was transferred to the class next door, Krovahn, and the girl who entered the martial arts department, Nesat, who they were.

All this was really unexpected.

Immediately after talking about Nakri during her phone call with Sakura, the tone she had suddenly changed to a somber one.

[Those people are the same as me, they are artificial Variant, because we were injected into the body with Vitaly's Variant Virus]

– ... Eh?

Karen could not believe what her ears heard, it was something she could never have imagined.

[Even so, these people were the henchman of Vitaly. It was these guys who attacked us when I was with Hayato on the bus in the Zwei Island. I had heard that Little Garden had captured them, but what did they have in mind when they allowed them to attend school? I will ask Dr. Charlotte immediately. Please wait a moment, Karen]

Then, the dial tone of the call began to ring. Sakura calls Dr. Charlotte, intending to add her to this conversation and thus keep a call between three people. Soon, Charlotte joins this communication.

[This is unusual, that you want to talk to me and add me to your call. Is something wrong?]

[It's nothing like that. Why are Vitaly's followers in Karen's class?!]

[Haa, it's about that. There is nothing to worry about. They have already been released from the hands of Vitaly and their Variant Virus has been stabilized. In addition, it no longer reacts to a specific frequency. As long as you do it normally, something like getting out of control should not happen, do not you think?]

– If that's the case...

[Are you worried?]

[That's obvious!]

[In case something happens, we will act as quickly as possible. And Chris will be in Kisaragi Karen's room]

[Chris, is not that the guy who is always next to the president, right? He is a student member of the Student Council, but he is an analyst and not a Slayer. What can he do?]

[There is an exception with the members of the Student Council, where they are allowed to use weapons that are capable of stopping the movement of their target. Let's say it is a measure of last resort. The moment a problem arises, he should be able to choose the best action to take. Of course we also have a guard who has perfectly joined the class next door where Krovahn-kun is. As for Nesat-kun, who is in the martial arts department, all his comrades are located behind her head, therefore, practically everyone is like her vigilantes]

Saying that, Charlotte laughed in a very compulsive way.

[Okay, but, preferably, and without neglecting to make friends, don't you think it's the best thing to have them attend school so they can lead a normal lifestyle, thinking that until now they haven't had a decent life at all? Because you had the desire to do so, you also started to appear more often in Little Garden. It is for that reason that, those who were given the surname Olfred, we will allow them to attend school]

[Okay okay, I understood, I understood! Certainly, it may be as you are saying, Okay!]

[Hahaha, apparently, you really could understand]

[There is no alternative but to pay attention to what you have said, hell...]

[Oh, now that I remember. Karen-kun, I'll ask you to please keep this information secret from your classmates.]

Karen now knows about the three people, which what was said in the conversation that happened recently. However, for one reason or another, she understands all the problems and bitter

circumstances that they had to go through, in order to get where they are now.

– Uhm, Rebecca...

– What is it?

– Nakri-san must have a lot of reasons, and that is why, it is not that she is really a cruel person, could you not pay her so much attention for a while? If Karen had not accepted wanting to talk with Rebecca, I would have been very nervous, and I would have been alone forever, that I could not have adapted to the class at all....

– What are you saying, this is the < < Little Witch of Little Garden > > *Little Little Witch!*

– Mou, please do not keep calling me that way! It is very shameful.

– Hahaha sorry excuse me. If Karen says it, I will not call you anymore like that..

– Yes, thank you very much!

Once the bus reached the control point, they had to descend from it. After that, a tall young man with blond hair and wearing the uniform of the martial arts department spoke to Karen.

– Oh, isn't she Hayato's younger sister?

Behind him, there was a girl who was about the same height as Karen and who also wore the uniform of the martial arts department.

(Surely they are Fritz Grantz and Latia Saint-Émilion, if I'm not mistaken)

Both are classmates of his older brother, Kisaragi Hayato. They have met many times so far and very recently they were together in the beach.

– Yup.

When Karen tilted her head, Fritz looked at the two girls at her side.

– Are they your friends from the school?? I am Fritz Grantz, the classmate of Karen-chan's older brother.

– I am Latia Saint-Émilion, nice to meet you!

Aoi and Rebecca, who received the introduction from two members of the martial arts department, decided to continue presenting as well.

– M- my name is Umino Aoi, Karen-chan's classmate ... and her friend

– I'm Rebecca Martin! Like Aoi, I'm Karen's classmate and friend!

– I see, Karen has already been able to make friends. That is a very good thing.

With an \*Uh huh\*, Latia nodded.

– So you are going to Sangria now?

It was Fritz who asked.

– That's right..

Karen replied.

– I see, it seems fine.

Saying that, Latia breathed deeply.

– Haaa... I also really want to go and entertain myself in Sangria, but this guard job is on my way. Unfortunately, it seems I can't leave this part of the ship for a while...

– Enjoy in our name!

– Hey, don't pat my head!

Karen responded while giving a smile as she watched that interaction she has seen countless times between those two people.

– Yes, understood.

– We'll have a lot of fun!

It was Rebecca who responded very enthusiastically.

– Do you know the procedure with which you must enter and leave the ship? Do not forget to take enough money.

After being guided by Latia, Karen and company proceeded to leave the ship, withdrew money from the ATM, crossed through the inspection area and got on the bus again.

After about fifteen minutes, they finally reached the downtown area of Sangria.

– Fuuaa, it's amazing. Even though I see things from inside the bus, but the streets are very big and the buildings are pretty tall...

When getting off the bus, Karen let out a breath of admiration.

– Hey hey, perhaps Yamato doesn't have buildings like that?

It was Rebecca who asked that with the intention of annoying.

– Uhm, I don't think it means that. There were some tall ones and others very large, but in the neighborhood of the institution where Karen lived, there weren't much of those buildings. If we add to that that the view while standing is quite different than seeing it while in a wheelchair, in some way or another it deeply moves you.

– I see, it's nice that it is to your liking. If that is the case, then it was totally worth it to have come with you in this way.

– Yes, thank you very much, Rebecca-san!

– Hehehe...

Rebecca, who received the emotional words of Karen, breathed

embarrassingly through her nose.

– Ook then, let's get there as fast as possible. I will guide you.

– Rebecca, what is that building?

Aoi asks Rebecca, who points to a large building which is hanging a poster where a female model appears.

– That building is called 'Sangria Center', it's a giant shopping center. It has many shops and is totally entertaining!

– Rebecca, you do know a lot ... by chance, did you look for information?

– Nonono, that's wrong, Aoi. In fact, I lived in the port town that is a bit distant from Sangria, but I have come to this location a lot of times.

– Oh, I see.

It seems that it is the first time that Aoi finds out about this.

Of course Karen also listens to that for the first time.

– Therefore, leave the role of being the guide to me. To begin, let's go to the toy store that is inside Sangria Center!

Rebecca walked leading the way, while taking the hands of Karen and Aoi.

On the spacious floor of the toy store, on the level where the computers were sold, and looking everywhere, inside the Sangria Center, were Karen and the others.

– Hey, Karen! Take a look at that.

When they moved to the next floor, Rebecca suddenly raised her voice.

That music that was in the background on the floor was—

– Oh, it's that...

Aoi looked in the direction where Rebecca was pointing with her finger and opened wide her eyes in surprise.

– Uwawawawawa...

The face of Karen who also turned to look at the place turned red in an instant. It was due to an electronic poster that was installed in that wall, and that contained publicity on the new songs of Sakura and Karen that flowed in it. The sample song was the one that she sung at the festival.

– Karen, you're awesome! You really are a celebrity!

– Calm down Rebecca, you're talking very loudly!

Karen quickly blocked her mouth, but it was too late.

– Isn't that girl the < <Little Witch of Little Garden> >? *Little Little Witch?*

– Will Kirishima Sakura also be around here?

– Give me an autograph.

And Karen quickly became the center of attention.

– ...What do we do now?

Asked Aoi, being very scared.

– In these moments, you have to do what you always do.

In a heartbeat, Rebecca took the hands of Karen and Aoi again.

– Run!

– Oh, they're escaping!

– Wait a minute!

– An autograph!

Karen and the girls jumped to the elevator that was about to



close, and they freed from all those people who chased them.

– Somehow, we managed to escape...

Breathing hard as if she were running out of air, Karen stammered.

– Karen, don't you think it's better if you wear sunglasses?

– No, I'm not Sakura-san, I do not think it's necessary to be so extreme to do that...

First of all, if Rebecca had not said something so unnecessary, then nobody would have recognized her.

Despite this, they went to the department where they sold accessories and saw some sunglasses (but ultimately did not buy them), saw many trinkets, then ate an ice cream in the food court located on the top floor of the mall, when the sky had become considerably dark.

When they look at the clock, it indicates that it is 7:00 p.m.

The < < Bridge of the Ship > > *Tree Ship* closes at 22:00 hours, which is why they decide that it is time that they should return to Little Garden. Karen and the others leave the Sangria Center and walk towards the nearest bus stop.

– We should get there faster if we go down this road.

Rebecca is the one who leads the way. Follow her behind Karen and Aoi.

It is a dark road, and quite spooky.

Even so they did not say anything to Rebecca, Karen and Aoi simply followed her.

– Hey, you, could you talk to me for a moment?

Who suddenly appears in front of them is the figure of a person.

(Huh? Where did this person come from?)

On both sides of the road, there are buildings whose minimum height is three stories.

It doesn't look like he could have arrived by jumping from one of them.

Again Karen looks at the boy. He was a teenager wearing a jacket with a black hat. He had nice features, but for some reason the muscles in her back froze.

(What does this person want...?)

I cannot stop this feeling in my chest.

I have a bad feeling.

– Who are you? A stalker? Sorry, but we must return to Little Garden, don't bother us.

Rebecca stepped in to protect Karen and Aoi and stared at the boy.

– Little Garden? So you want to say that you are Slayers and you belong to Little Garden? Then—

Pulling out his tongue and licking his own lips, the boy turned his gaze to Karen.

– You have a very good aroma, you look very delicious.

– A good aroma...

Somehow disgusting, Karen tensed the cheeks of her face.

– At that, Karen and we are high school students, not Slayers...

Karen responds with a trembling voice.

– Is that true? Are you sure you're not lying?

– Huh...?

And, in an instant.

A blade appeared in the boy's hand.

(That of now, Is that a weapon deployment?)

The boy who quickly kicked the floor and approached Karen, shook the blade and threw it down.

– ... tsu!

Karen felt it instantaneously and tried to take a step backwards and succeeds, but the tip of the blade managed to touch the clothes at chest height.

The clothes are cut, and a Hundred that hangs at neck level is exposed. The boy stared at it, and smiled with a wicked smile.

– So in the end, you weren't a Slayer?

– B- b- but what's wrong with you? Why do you suddenly want to kill Karen!?

Shouted Rebecca.

Tears are starting to come from the edge of her eyes.

Aoi was paralyzed sitting on the floor, wrapped in fear, tried to speak but her voice was imperceptible.

(... What should I do...?)

This is not the time to doubt.

(If we come to this, there is no other option, right?)

Charlotte told me that it did not bring any good to deploy the Hundred in a reckless way, and that achieving a deployment of the Hundred in this state, which was to use it without the Variable Suit was a bet that had never before been seen.

I have no confidence in my ability as Slayer. But the enemy is a Slayer. I do not think I can get out of it without deploying my

armament.

– Finally I could have my first friends—I will definitely protect them!

After deciding what to do, Karen removes the Hundred from the neck, takes it firmly and screams.

– < < Deploy Sacred Amulet! > > HUNDRED ON!

The Hundred shines in a light purple color and transforms into a thin object, into a card.

She throws it into the air and then Karen screams again.

– I beg you, Card-san! Please, let us escape from this place!

The shape of the Hundred, which was a regular octahedron, was drawn in the center of the card and then changed shape according to the design, which was a weapon. Then the card shone again and its shape changed to that of a gun.

– Eh eh...?

Until now, it had changed it into up to six giant cards, but because Karen did not have her Variable Suit, this time it was different. It simply became a weapon.

Certainly the cause must be because she is not wearing her Variable Suit.

Karen, who was confused by this change just happened, the boy said.

– Really, are you going to shoot me with that? It is impossible for you to defeat me with such a lame gun that you have there.

The boy is getting closer and closer with a smile from ear to ear.

(Oh dear, what is the best thing to do?)

Karen has never fired a weapon before. Of course, there was also

some uncertainty when shooting at humans.

While she was doubtful as to what she should do, a voice sounded in her head.

—— Shoot please.

(This voice...)

During the festival, a girl who was naked appeared to me in front of the live stage. And again, the voice echoed in my head.

—— Do not worry. That existence that seems to be a human, is not a human as such. He will not die with the shots of your weapon. Therefore, in that way you can escape.



– I'll do it.

Answers Karen.

Now I have no other choice but to trust her.

– Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeii!

Karen presses the trigger of her weapon. And at the same time, she looks completely surprised.

– ...What?

Karen had imagined that the beam that would be fired from her weapon would be like one of Claire's floating weapons, something like a low-caliber bullet that was fired. But the thing that came out of the mouth was a thick and gigantic bullet that emitted a light as bright as the sun, making everything around it shine, causing an explosion that resonated throughout the sector.

It created a tremendous explosion.

Karen was surprised that everything around her was covered in a cloud of dust, and again she heard the voice.

—— Now it's time to run away.

– Escape, in what way...

—— You should be able to change your armament.

– Oh...

That was true.

Karen cancels her armament, to become a card and again screams.

– Card-san, please allow me to fly through the skies!

The card again begins to transform into particles, wrapping Karen's body to create the armament. The next mark was < <Wings> >—The letter glowed in particles, manifesting on Karen's back, looking like the armament of < <Air Combat Armor> > *Air Ride*, which was equipped by Liddy the other day. Two < <Propulsion Units> > *Thrusters* appeared at waist height.

– You two, hold tight.

– OKAY!

– Done!

Under Karen's instruction, both Rebecca and Aoi get hold as much as possible from the left and right.

– Here we go!

Karen held the two and along with her wings flew using *Thrusters*, with that she moved to the roof of the nearest building. In the same way, one, then two, Karen is moving from one place to another.

(Will it be okay for it to have escaped up to this distance?)

She advanced like this to the fifth rooftop and then turned to look back.

The figure of the boy was not visible.

– What will you do now?

It was Rebecca who asked.

– Now, I'm looking for Little Garden.

So far I have started blindly. Not necessarily going in the direction of Little Garden.

Karen walks around looking around, looking for the place to take her home.

– I found it...!

There were no vestiges of being able to advance on foot until the inspection on Sangria's side, so she once again injected energy into the *Thrusters*, but doing that was easier to reach.

– Karen, there!

When Aoi shouted, she turned his gaze in the indicated direction, and could see that something flew into the building on his own, realizing that it was the boy's appearance.



– Hold tight you two!

Karen ran to the edge of the roof, running her legs over the railing. Again, she injected energy into the *Thrusters* and flew high into the night sky.

– You will not escape!

The boy who reached the ceiling where Karen was a moment ago, creates a sparkling spear in his hand and throws it at Karen.

– — Kyaaaa!?

That spear hits the right wing directly, which was the armament that was on Karen's back. As a result, Karen loses her balance, but does not fall to the ground because of it.

(If we have arrived at this, would I let an easy prey escape to Little Garden...? Maybe I should go there ...?)

Karen injects more energy to the *Thrusters*. The boy sits on the railing with his legs in the forward direction and says.

– Damn, I lost them.

There is no more land to walk to there.

– What a waste, I did not want to retire and give up today, but there are issues that I have to worry about and it will be really a problem if I do more things that attract attention. I think that's enough for tonight. In addition, the main objective, Liza Harvey, is there.

The boy was muttering as he looked at Little Garden, which was where Karen was heading.

\*\*\*

– ... Kisaragi-san, Kisaragi Hayato-san...

– N... aa...

– Please wake up, Kisaragi-san.

– N, Emilia, why are you here...

The moment he tried to lift his body, Hayato felt a sensation in his right hand, and one that he remembers.

(No, do not tell me it's 'that?')

(By any chance, did I grab Emilia's breast?)

(But, her breasts were that big?)

As far as I can remember, the size of Emilia's breasts gave the impression that they were from the palm of my hand.

In contrast to these breasts, they are so big that they do not fit in the palm of my hand.

Hayato involuntarily rubs with his hand and moves it.

(As I thought, this chest is quite big...)

It can be even bigger than of the president's. It has a lot of elasticity, and it is very soft.

Also, this protrusion that feels in the center of the palm of my hand...

(B-, but what am I doing!)

Because he was half asleep, he accidentally rubbed it.

– Nn... n, Kisaragi-san, that's a bit embarrassing...

With that voice, I returned to my senses and could barely open my eyes.

– ...Ah...

A woman reflected in his eyes.

Realizing that it was not Emilia but Serivia Notre Dame Paul III,

the pontiff of < <Holy Church> > Puritaria, Hayato became completely pale.

– I- I’m sorry!

Although his gesture of removing the hand was good, in his hurry to want to get up, he failed in his attempt.

– U, uwaa!?

Hayato stumbles to the side of the bed, and his face makes its way completely between the breasts of Serivia, as if wanting to look furtively at her figure.



\* PYON \* made his face by touching that warm and elastic. Subsequently, a very pleasant aroma flowed through his nasal cavity.

– Ara, ara ara? Are you okay, Hayato-san?

Then Hayato noticed that Serivia had embraced his head. He looks like an infant in that position.

– No, I'm fine ... or maybe not.

I have breasts in front of my eyes and in this type of situation I cannot move.

– Ara, I was very worried. Did you hit your head?

Saying that, Serivia gently strokes his head. Every time his face is pressed against her breasts, her softness is transmitted even more.

(Uaaaa, what is it, this ...)

This has become completely absurd.

– Kisaragi-san, are you feeling better now?

– Y-yes!

At the moment when the arm separated from his head, without waiting for anything, Hayato pulled back his body and away from Serivia.

(Haa, finally ...)

If this had stayed for longer, I do not know what would have happened.

Fortunately, the two followers were not in the room. They would probably have deployed their weapons and he would have been pierced by the halberds. That a vulgar person was rubbing those breasts was what he thought, believing that he could be stabbed by Serivia with a high probability at that moment.

– No, as it is I'm the one who regrets it.

Serivia who heard Hayato's apology, bowed her head and said.

– ... Why do you apologize? Who should apologize is my person. It's because I entered this room without any authorization.

– Oh I see.

That's the problem.

– Why would Pontiff-sama, come to my room with that appearance ... or perhaps I should say, with what reason, would enter my room?

If you look closely, Serivia is very lightly dressed. In the upper part a bra whose adornment of pleats was beautiful and wore a negligee whose transparency allowed to see her underwear.

In contrast to Sakura and Emilia, and even different from Claire, is a soft and pleasant body, good appearance, that has that charm that moves to the color and aroma of an adult, and that is possible to feel when holding it between the arms.

Looking at it, Hayato remembered the softness he felt with his right hand when he touched his chest, then what he felt with his dizzy face, and when he remembered the sweet aroma that he suddenly inhaled from her, he ended up swallowing in a nervous and noisy way.

– This, that's because...

Serivia points with her eyes towards the window that has a small opening. That gesture is also brilliant.

From that opening, a fresh wind came in and gently rocked her hair.

– Could it be that you have entered through there?

– Indeed.

Serivia nodded and then answered to Hayato, who was asking while being surprised.

– From outside the window of my room to the outside of this window, I made a path using *Sense Energy* and then I entered.

– I, I see...

That this person is capable of being something like that, is what Hayato thinks.

Pontiff-sama, is someone incredible.

– My apologies for entering impertinently. I am profoundly sorry.

He inclined his head quickly and continued.

– However, before me, I felt the presence of an intruder, it is because—

– Huh? Intruder?

– It's the bodyguard of the third Prince of Wenz. She disappeared from the corridor, opened the lock of your room and entered, I noticed it coincidentally while I was walking. When I entered the room in this way, it was too late, she was already gone. But the most important thing is that Hayato-san is well. But—

The view of Serivia is directed towards the box that is placed on the desk.

– Hayato-san, could you please confirm the Hundred that is inside is really yours?

There is no answer to that question.

Silently, Serivia opens the box on the desk, then takes the Hundred with one hand.

– As I suspected, it was just what I thought. This Hundred, which has been created in some way, is different and has been changed with the original.

– That, don't tell me...

– The quality of the Hundred is also bad, and I feel that the structure of its energy is in complete disorder. With this, you will not be able to fight in a battle. Hayato-san, could you try to deploy the armament for once?

While saying that, Serivia hands Hayato the Hundred in his hands.

– So far, it does not seem like they changed it...

Hayato gets out of bed, goes to a safer place, holds the Hundred firmly in his hand and then throws it.

– HUNDRED, ON

It emitted a red light.

These particles produced an armor on Hayato's right arm and a gigantic, thick sword.

– Then that's your Hundred.

– Yeah, I call him < <Swallow in flight> > \* *Hien*. I was able to deploy it as usual...

\* **TN: In Kanji it is 飛燕, it reads hien.**

Both the weight and the sensation when touching it are the same as always.

– Is that so?

But, Serivia stares at < <Swallow in flight> > *Hien*.

After a few seconds—

– Can you let me touch it?

– Oh, go ahead...

She reaches out to touch the blade of Hien's sword.

But her facial expression is not good at all.

While frowning, Serivia said.

– Hayato-san, try to concentrate the energy please.



– Oh ok. Immediately.

Hayato concentrates the energy of *Hien*. It is then that the pattern engraved on the blade of the sword glows red, but quickly disappears.

– Oh, how strange?

– As I supposed, this is a second-hand object. Apparently it has nothing to do with force.

When Serivia pressed with the five fingers of her right hand, the moment she held the blade, a part of it broke.

– Oh...

While Hayato was with a surprised face, and like a bubble in the hands of Serivia, the broken fragment disappears.

– Hayato-san, that's enough. You can cancel the armament deployment now.

When told, Hayato released his armament...

– Certainly, apparently it's like you were saying, Serivia-san.

– Although it is better than a generic one, if this happens in a battle, it would become something really serious. I think it would be best to prepare a new exclusive use Hundred for now.

– You saved me, and you've even taught me this.

– Not at all, I do not like suspicious activities. On the other hand, < <Holy Church> > Puritaria is in a cooperative position with Little Garden regarding the Lunaltia plan, so I would like to see your power to be even better.

Serivia let out a laugh.

– Very well then, I will go immediately to wake up Emilia and we will see what is the best we can do.

– Sounds good to me. Then, I will go to—

– Serivia-san, wait a moment please!

Hayato quickly calls Serivia, who was about to leave the room.

– What is happening?

– If we explain the two about the situation to Emilia, it would be very helpful because she would understand it better.

– But, with me being in this appearance? It could turn into a misunderstanding for Emilia-san and think something that is not.

– Oh...

Serivia automatically put her hands on her chest when she said that.

Because of that, I tried not to be as aware of it as I could, but with the overflowing charm of an adult woman, my eyes were fixed on the figure of her body.

– That's why, I with this—

Seeing Hayato whose face turned red and laughing with nerves, Serivia put her hand on the door handle to leave the room. But, the intention of her to leave the room, could not occur, she could not leave the room.

– Ara? Ara ara?

Speaking of problems, at the same time that the door opened, Emilia was standing outside the door of Hayato's room. Apparently she was just going to try to hit, making a fist with her right hand, as she was stopped in a position where she was about to knock on the door.

– Eh ... oh, this ... What is Pontiff-sama doing in Hayato's room ... and more on top, what is she doing in that obscene appearance!?

Emilia pointed her index finger at Serivia, who with her watery

eyes was trembling doing \*Puru\* \*Puru\*.

– He, hey Emilia, do not be impolite with Serivia-san. And why are you standing in front of my room?

– I felt Hayato's energy, and that's why I worried that something was happening...

– Oh, so it was something like that?

Apparently she could feel the energy that emanated from my body when I deployed the armament, and so Emilia apparently came flying dressed in her pajamas.

... Hayato. Could you explain why Pontiff-sama is here?

– Of, of course...

Hayato told her that Serivia happened to see an intruder. And he informed her that something could have happened.

He also informed her that they could recognize that there is an abnormality regarding his Hundred. Of course he did not tell her about the fact that he touched her breasts.

– Then it would be that girl who was like a chameleon and was next to Douglas who could have stolen the key from somewhere and invaded Hayato's room and did something strange to his Hundred?

– It's very likely that happened.

That's what Serivia answered.

– The manipulation for the restructuring of molecules is not something that can be done that simple, and given that in the first place the quality of the Variable Stone that lies inside is quite poor, I think there is a high possibility that they have interchanged. Hayato-san, are you sure that you will participate in the joint operation that I mentioned earlier?

– Yes, I will participate.

– Then at that time the Hundred information will be forwarded to the United Nations. In that way, it will be possible to create one that looks quite similar.

– Is that possible?

– In short, with that Hundred in such a condition it is totally impossible for you to fight. Therefore, I think it is best to change it immediately.

– Thank you very much, Serivia-san.

– Thank you very much.

Following Hayato, Emilia also expressed her gratitude with words.

Looking at their appearance, Serivia smiled and laughed.

– Very good then, good night.

And she left the room.

– What do we do now?

Hayato asked Emilia.

– Get Claudia out of bed at the moment. I know the location of the laboratory and the special training room, but for now we can't go to those places.

When Emilia got in touch, Claudia, who was wearing the uniform indicated by Gutenberg's army, arrived not entirely composed before Hayato's room.

– Emilia-sama, there are troubles!

– Calm down, Claudia. What the hell happened?

Emilia asks to the exalted Claudia.

– Ummm, at first I spoke with a trusted technician for the generation of the Hundred of dedicated use for Kisaragi Hayato, but

it turns out that he could not access the laboratory for the exclusive use of the Royal Guard. It seems that the password of the door has been changed. And there is another laboratory in the vicinity that is in the same situation.

– Undoubtedly Douglas did it, that person who looks like a chameleon, don't you think?

– Haa, as one would expect from the people of Wenz, who enter the laboratories of the Kingdom of Gudenburg and change their access passwords.

– If that's so, then does it mean that they have some kind of collaborator from the Gudenburg side? Wait, do not tell me—

For a moment Hayato understood who was the person that passed through Emilia's mind. It was Prime Minister Bratt.

– If this is the work of someone like him, there is a possibility that all laboratories in Britannia, including those in Gudenburg, can't be used until the battle is over.

Claudia has a bitter expression leaving her teeth in sight.

That guy, of course Bratt did it.

– For now, let's try to contact Charo. If it's Charo, she'll probably give us some good ideas.

Opening the Tablet PC, Emilia began to contact Charlotte as she had said.

Immediately the figure of Charlotte is shown on the screen.

[Isn't it late at night in Gudenburg? However, what happens? You are so quiet, and with such long faces—]

– Emm, the truth is that...

Emilia began to tell the circumstances to Charlotte who was frowning as she looked at the expressions of Hayato and the others as well as the appearance of the room behind them.

[...In other words, after the Hundred was exchanged, Douglas, as soon as he made sure everything was going well, contacted Bratt to change the passwords of the access doors of the laboratories in the vicinity of the Royal Palace?]

– Certainly, that’s what we believe. Charo, what should we do?

– Hmm, I think...

Holding her arms and giving a few moans, she takes a few seconds to think deeply. Finally Charlotte starts talking.

[First, could you hear something I have to say? This is where I really doubt whether I should tell you or not, but there is a possibility that what is happening is related in some way to you. It turns out that a couple of days ago, in the city of Sangria, a Slayers Hunt has taken place]

– < <Master of Martial Arts’ Hunt> > Slayers’ Hunt? But what is that?

Those were very disturbing words.

Emilia narrowed her eyes and asked.

[There are some types of people who are looking for Slayer and steal their Hundred. Currently, there are three people from the Liberian troops who have died and yesterday, at least three Little Garden students who went to the streets of Sangria were attacked. Kisaragi Hayato-kun. Your younger sister—Kisaragi Karen]

– ...!...

Hayato is very surprised, and his breathing accelerates.

– Karen, is Karen safe?!

[Maa maa, calm down]

Standing and grasping the Tablet PC while Hayato yelled at her when he said that, Charlotte continued.

[She was not hurt, she was able to escape unharmed from the enemy, she also protected her two companions she was with and they returned to Little Garden. As you can expect from your sister]

– What a relief...

Upon hearing those words, Hayato was relieved.

[The Liberian army feels embarrassed to have suffered the loss of Slayers who were killed and stripped of their Hundred, and apparently they have been hiding this from Little Garden. We know about this incident, thanks to the fact that your sister has made it known to us. What's more, as a bonus we know what the criminal's objective is]

– Who is that criminal, what the hell...

[As a result of consolidating what we have heard from Karen's story and the information held in Little Garden, there is the possibility that the criminal is an < <Artificial Life Form > > *Homunculus*]

– ... *Homunculus*?

[It is a human being that has been created by fertilizing an egg with sperm in a tube. However, in this case it is a little different. Only the necessary cells were selected from the fertilized eggs, making them multiply together with Variable Stone and the body fluids of the Savages to create the homunculus. Assuming that it is the culprit who has been performing the Slayers' Hunt]

– That's...

He was about to say that it was equal to Liza. But Liza is a secret that Emilia does not know.

– What's up Hayato?

– No, it's nothing. I think what she is saying is really terrible.

He said that to get out of the way. Charlotte who knows about Liza probably understood it.

[Can I continue?]

Asking that, Charlotte continued.

[And maybe, Vitaly created that called *Homunculus* as her trump card—Joker. This information was spread by the three artificial Variants]

Six months before the assault on Little Garden, Vitaly was preparing to move to the base located in the mountains of Liberia.

Joker was created more than half a year ago. Vitaly who had managed to create an artificial Variant with a higher power than a normal Slayer was trying to proceed to the next stage. And that is, the creation of a *Homunculus* from the birth of a Variant.

But, apparently that did not turn out very well. According to what the three individuals of artificial Variant said, there was only one specimen of that generation that managed to obtain a human form by being a *Homunculus*—.

But, that example of success, the trump card, Joker, had enough energy to generate armaments from Hundred.

Vitaly therefore made full use of her growth drugs and sleep-learning devices, trying to quickly nourish the Joker for use as a battle weapon against Little Garden, but in the middle of a simulated battle against the three artificial Variant, his energy could not be controlled and went crazy. For that reason he ended up running out of energy and his activity went into suspension.

(Again as for that, Liza is quite similar...)

That was Hayato's impression.

Certainly, Liza went out of control after helping Claire, consumed all her energy and that's how she is in the present.

– Later, Vitaly could not wake up for a second time to Joker and ended up discarding him. Then again she tried to make another similar *Homunculus*, only this time she did not succeed.



– Wait a moment, with discarding it, what do you mean...

[In order to keep a *Homunculus* alive, you need Hundred, Variable Stone and Savage core. In other words, she did not have the necessary elements for it. The soul of a *Homunculus* is like a mass of *Sense Energy*. If it runs out, it's just a piece of meat. That means that in the end it was just an empty shell]

Undoubtedly it was a container that could not find a single soul in one of Vitaly's laboratories. As it were, it has been reported that many corpses of people who would be children have been found. Most likely it is the unsuccessful experiments of the *Homunculus* creation.

– But then, why is the *Homunculus* now doing the Slayers Hunt—

[That I still do not know. It is possible that someone has taken the materials that were left in Vitaly's research laboratory and has succeeded in trying to create a *Homunculus*, or that Joker, who should have been discarded, for some reason has begun to move, is what I think. As for me, I think the second alternative is more viable. It means that Vitaly did not burn Joker's container and that the appearance that Karen-kun saw is quite similar to Joker's. It seems that it can deploy weapons without the need for a Hundred. It could be that maybe there was some energy inside the container, and with that he possibly woke up]

– In other words, Charo, do you think the anti-Slayer organization got Joker, they gave him Variable Stone and Savage's core and with that they managed to wake him up?

[I do not think it was the anti-Slayer organization]

Charlotte then takes a very serious look and changes her speech.

[The story from this point is the most problematic question. Exactly a week ago, in one of Vitaly's laboratories where the *Homunculus* research was being conducted, there was a battle between the anti-Slayer organization and the United Nations Integrated Army]

After the battle, the members of the anti-Slayer organization who were investigating the results of the investigation left by Vitaly were annihilated— Immediately after that, members of the United Nations Integrated Army searched the base where Vitaly was studying the *Homunculus*, but it was completely ruined.

[The Slayer troop that reported that report belonged to the Kingdom of Wenz and its commander—was Douglas]

– Does that finally mean that, Douglas is involved in the Slayers' Hunt?

– ... ah...!

At that moment, what passed through Hayato's mind was what Douglas said in the hall when he left the palace.

– Did something happen to you, Kisaragi Hayato?

Asks Claudia, probably noticing the state of Hayato.

Hayato spoke recalling the words that Douglas used at that time.

– In that palace, Douglas was saying that Little Garden was not relevant, at the time you will understand it immediately.

– No, it can't be...

Emilia's eyes widened in amazement. Even her body is trembling.

– It is certainly so, Emilia-sama. Douglas ended up discarding his commitment and as a revenge changed the Hundred to avoid falling into shame when facing each other, in order to win in the duel against Kisaragi Hayato; from there employing Joker to find the whereabouts of two people in Little Garden. It is impossible to measure the damage that would be with that difference!

[...Exactly]

Charlotte quickly nodded and continued.

[That Douglas Edward Wenz, if he really did it, we should gather

evidence to show that he did. Otherwise it will say that we are defaming him and will take advantage of that moment to escape. As for that, there is a strategy, but it is also necessary that Hayato can fight at a hundred percent. For that, regarding the new exclusive Hundred for Hayato, let me do it at the University of Weimar, of which I am a professor emeritus. There I have a lot of disciples]

It takes an hour and a half by plane between Weimar and Gudenburg—The time of the duel is at afternoon, so there is plenty of time.

[For now, I will send the information and start the creation of the Hundred immediately. Since I do not know how long that process will take even though we have a few hours, I will leave the topic discussed so that it is sent first thing in the morning by plane to Gudenburg]

– Really!? Thank you very much!

Hayato gave a very animated voice.

[Regarding the details of the shipment, let's decide tomorrow morning. So far, I have compiled a good amount of different strategies. Of course, I have included ways to contain the Joker. Until then, I on my part will immediately begin to work, as for you, take it easy and rest until morning]

\*\*\*

– Hayato, are you awake? Hayato! Something very serious has happened!

\*DON DON DON\*

Hayato woke up by the voice of Emilia and the blows that received the thick door. There were the figures of Emilia who wore the uniform of the martial arts department of Litte Garden and Claudia in her uniform of the troops of the Slayer army of Gudenburg.

– Uff, you finally woke up!

Emilia shouted. Apparently she was really in trouble.

– Hey hey, what’s the matter? Still is not the time we would get together, right?

– Ummm, let’s start talking inside.

Emilia who said that entered the room followed by Claudia. As soon as the door closed, she began to speak.

– There was a contact from Charo now. A scientist from Weimar who tried to bring the Hundred to Gudenburg has been arrested at the Heathoria airport by the anti-Slayer organization.

– Huh ..? What, what do you mean...?

– Charo says that, they are making false accusations, but, surely they try to collect by means of a baggage inspection the Hundred of Hayato—or even exchange it.

– Impossible, then since when the Prime Minister has been putting his hands?

– It’s very frustrating, that something like this is happening.

Claudia replied.

– I went to the airport to do some negotiation, but I did not achieve anything.

Claudia said that before becoming Prime Minister, Bratt was the president of the Privy Council.

The current president is a member of the same party as Bratt.

The Privy Council is a unit directed directly by the King, can command directly the police and public safety without having to have the approval of Congress. That’s all about it.

– What do we do, Hayato? Even if we ask Charo to do another Hundred again, it is very likely that the same thing will happen if it is by air. If it is by a land route, and within Europe, there will be no

baggage inspection, but it will take about five hours from Weimar and it may not arrive on time before the duel begins.

Hayato suddenly realized the words he heard.

– Hey, Emilia. From the capital city of Louvre, Francois, do you know how long the trip will take by land?

Using the train at high speed, it can take two and a half hours though...

The clock shows that it is now eight in the morning.

The duel will take place just midday.

That means, they still have some time.

– Wait Hayato, don't tell me...

Apparently Emilia has managed to understand what Hayato thinks.

– What is happening Hayato-sama, Emilia-sama?

Claudia, who tilts her head in deliberation, Hayato talks about his idea.

– Currently, now Sakura is live in Louvre, capital city of Francois.

Although there is also, of course, her manager Souffle Clearrail. She is an engineer and at the same time one of Charlotte's apprentices. She can create the Hundred and for that there are the connections that will allow her to use the laboratory for that purpose.

– In other words, what you mean is that the Hundred will be created in Louvre and then sent on a high-speed train?

Hayato nodded.

He does not know if they will really manage to do it, but it will be worth asking.

– For now, I'll phone Sakura.

Hayato took out his PDA and called her number.

[Hayato-kun! Isn't this the first time Hayato-kun calls me? Maybe you wanted to hear my voice as soon as you woke up? Or will it be love? Is it love?]

– Uhhh, I was really calling to ask you a favor...

[A favor? What? What?]

– Could I ask Soufle-san to create a Hundred exclusively for me?

– [... Eh?]

At the sudden request, Sakura was speechless.

After many seconds, she answered.

[I think it's likely that she can do it but, what's the problem?]

Hayato tells Sakura about the battle against Emilia's boyfriend, and that her Hundred was exchanged while she was sleeping.

[In the case that Hayato lost, then Emilia would have to marry her fiancé, if so, I thought that they would be for each other, but it seems that this situation will not happen]

I think it's not the best time to be telling jokes.

After all, it is possible that in this circumstance Hayato's life is at stake.

[Okay, anyway, I'll go wake up Souffle. Also, there's nothing particularly planned until tonight, so I'll deliver the Hundred. I will witness Hayato-kun's duel live]

This is not the case, it is not the time to be saying those things.

Emilia sighed as it was inevitable.

– I get it. Please I beg you.

[Yaaay Alright then, I'll go and tell Souffle]

After about 10 minutes, there was another communication from Sakura.

[Souffle is OK, she said she can do it. Right now I am receiving the data of Hayato from Dr. Charlotte. Once this is finished she will go to create the Hundred]

– I see...

I'm really grateful.

Continuing, Sakura said.

[As soon as it's ready, I'll deliver it ASAP. All right, see you, Hayato-kun ]

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– I said it was fine, but it hurts a little....

Karen sighed loudly as she dropped her shoulders at the bus stop next to the school.

My body feels very heavy.

When she got off the bus, her feet wobbled. Today she got up at 06:30, a little earlier than usual, that because due to the circumstances she heard last night, she went to bed when the sun was changing.

Before attending school, she stayed awake until two in the morning, but since the next day she had to wake up before dawn, the situation was completely different. If she does not sleep for at least eight hours, then Karen's body cannot bear the burden it carries.

However, today was six hours. For two hours it was not enough, and she used a lot of *Sense Energy* because of the boy's attack last night in Sangria. Dr. Charlotte says that if you use a lot of energy, you will feel that your body will suffer. Although she said it was

good to be able to go to school but,

– I’m fine, I’m leaving!

Karen answered during the examination in the morning.

She didn’t want Aoi or Rebecca to worry about her if she was absent so she could take a break.

(Will they be fine?)

It was quite terrifying what happened very recently.

Maybe they thought there was a possibility that I would be absent from school because my physical condition deteriorated, but—

– Yoo, Karen!

– Kyaa!?

When she tried to pass through the front door of the school, she suddenly felt a voice approaching her, and was hit in the back. That caused Karen to collapse and fall forward.

– Ah! I am sorry. Did I hit you too hard?

– Are you okay, Karen-san!?

The two ducked completely as Karen was lying face down on the floor.

– Oh, yes, I’m fi... ne—kya!

Karen, who was getting up, her body wobbled as she said that, causing it to collapse again.

– Hey, Karen!? Don’t tell me you’ve been hurt for a while? Or are you injured because what happened yesterday...?

– No, it’s not that, it’s just that I used a lot of energy yesterday, and I feel my body a bit heavy... Beyond that, are you okay?

Karen gets up, and asks both of them.



– We are ok? Why do you ask?

– Well, it's just that, a lot of things happened yesterday and I wanted to know if you were good...

– Yees, as you can see, I'm fine! I'm not hurt at all. How about you Aoi? You don't have anything in particular?

– Huh? Emm, yes, I'm fine. Nothing happens.

Saying that, Aoi smiled.

Somehow Karen felt somewhat uncomfortable with that smile.

(Are, did something happen, Aoi-chan?)

While I was hesitant to hear it or not,

– Oook, let's go to the classroom.

And Rebecca started walking.

– Let's go, Karen-san.

– Oh yeah.

Following Rebecca, Aoi also started walking.

For a while, things have changed as they have always been.

(Yup, It seems that everything has been my imagination...)

Going to Aoi to reach her, Karen also started walking.

When the three arrived at the classroom, all their classmates surrounded them to the point that they could no longer get them out of their way or move around.

– Yesterday, you were attacked by the Slayers' Hunter, right?

– Are you okay?

– Do you have any wounds?

Etc., their companions ask quickly one after the other. That's when Rebecca with a very confident attitude starts answering.

– We were really in a pinch, Karen deployed her Hundred, and then flew into the skies! She saved us!

Her version had some exaggeration as if it were told by a professional narrator.

Her classmates said [Wooo], others [Unbelievable].

While they were excited and praised her, they listened to the story of Rebecca who spoke really inspired. Even though she thought it might be a bit of an exaggeration, she felt relieved that it was not she who had to interact at that moment. Finally the counter argument came from the other side.

– Karen-san, you're just as amazing as your brother.

– Noo, that, ahahah...

She couldn't do anything but laugh to divert attention, since she is not the incredible, but the girl who emitted the voice in her head.

Last night when they asked her the question of rigor.

Karen told about the voice to Dr. Charlotte.

– About that voice, it's probably Liza.

What the hell was that voice?

– There is a great mass of powerful energy within you. That characteristic is very similar to that of Liza. That's why finally now, I've been able to understand that even if you used a lot of energy, I could understand why you're doing well right now.

Dr. Charlotte said.

She has not informed her in full detail of what Liza really is, but you could say that she is like the "Goddess" of Little Garden.

Anyway, thanks to the power she received from Liza, she was able to survive the boy's attack, not by her own power.

But being unconscious of that, the eyes of the companions shine, and one by one they are throwing questions without stopping.

– Karen-san, it is confirmed that you will become a Slayer and fight against the Savage in the future? Even so, you will still be mainly a singer just like Sakura-san?

– Until now, I have not thought about what to do yet...

Karen responds ambiguously. At that moment, she felt a penetrating gaze. That look was from Nakri, who was the transferred student who was sitting at her desk.

(Is she staring at me?)

But Nakri looked away when Karen's eyes met hers.

That's when the bell rings the tutor enters the classroom.

– Students, let's start with the class.

That made Karen feel relieved to be released.

It is then when the bell rings that the homeroom teacher enters the classroom.

What was mentioned in the tutoring was that a couple of days ago an incident occurred in which Slayers were involved in Sangria's side and that is why the circulation between Little Garden and Sangria has been restricted. It has even been said that there has been no damage other than Slayer at that time, in addition there are notifications by the Student Council to stop the movement to Sangria as much as possible.

Fortunately, the tutoring ended without the topic of Karen from yesterday, and as usual, the first hours of classes began.

As always, the body feels heavy. But, by lunchtime, she felt much better—.

– Now that I think about it, I could...

As soon as the class that started the lunch break ended, Karen looked back.

She wanted to talk to Nakri.

Apart from wanting to invite her to lunch, she wanted to ask her why she was watching her during the morning tutoring.

– ... What, where...?

Realizing, she was no longer there. Leaving her books and notebooks on her desk, she indicates that apparently went somewhere.

(Has she ate already?)

She can't find her by looking around, inside the classroom.

– Karen, let's go eat!

– Oh, ok!

Invited by Rebecca as usual, Karen left the classroom in the direction of the cafeteria.

At the end of lunch time, afternoon classes arrived. By now, Karen's physical strength had returned to normal. That was also due to Liza's power.

– Hey, the homework that has been given now and must be brought tomorrow, let's do it together if you want. I'm not good at math, so will you teach me?

At the end of the last lesson of today, Rebecca said that to Karen and Aoi.

– Oh, right. Karen doesn't do well in math either... Aoi-chan, could you teach us?

– This, I'm sorry...! Today I have something to do!

Aoi, who had already finished preparing her things to go home, suddenly stood up carrying her bag.

– S- See you!

– Ah! Hey, wait!

Rebecca calls her out trying to make her stop, but Aoi does not stop the march of her legs. She left the classroom quickly, just like that.

– What’s wrong with her, today she’s been weird, right? At lunch break too, it was as if she was rambling, she was also like that during the lessons, she didn’t listen to what the teacher was saying.

– Yes, I also think the same...

It is impossible for her to be the usual Aoi.

That’s why Karen and Rebecca stared at the door that led to the exit of the classroom where Aoi had left.

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– Haa, haa ...

Exercise is not one of her strongest points. She practically doesn’t run, that is why she is out of practice, since she only does it in physical education lessons. Because of that, Aoi stops her feet when she arrived at the entrance after running down the stairs to reach the first floor of the school building.

While she breathed heavily, she quickly changed her shoes, while taking a look at the corridor. Making sure that Rebecca and Karen were not chasing her, and after her breathing normalized, Aoi started running again, to jump on the bus that came in front of the school.

With this, she was finally able to relax and sat with her back on a chair. Then again she stood up when it arrived at the station that was located in front of the checkpoint in the terminal of the sector that connects Little Garden with the district of Sangria.

Due to entry and exit restrictions, there are very few people unlike yesterday.

It can also be seen staff from Warslan and Little Garden, where Slayers and soldiers wear their respective uniforms, where the door leading to the bridge with many ships connected to Sangria is completely closed, like a cage.

(As I thought, it is impossible to go and look for my PDA to Sangria on my own, after all ...)

Thinking that maybe she should give up and heed the call made by her teacher, a white man with blond hair, a young man who wore the uniform of Little Garden martial arts department was approaching.

The companion of Kisaragi Hayato, the older brother of Kisaragi Karen.

(If I'm not mistaken, is it Fritz-san?)

Going to Aoi's position, Fritz approaches with confidence.

– If I remember correctly, you are yesterday's...

– Umino Aoi.

– Oh, that's right, that's right. Forgetting the name of a girl, what kind of person am I. Ahahahaha

– What are you laughing about!

Latia stomps on Fritz's foot.

– Ouch ouch, as expected, it does not work with middle school girls.

– Of course!

After screaming and exposing her fangs, Latia looked at Aoi.

– Leaving this aside, is something wrong? That we met yesterday

with you was one thing, but now, you can't go to Sangria from Little Garden.

– After all I can't do it...

Aoi's facial expression darkened.

– What is your reason for wanting to go?

– Well, it turns out that...

Aoi, when asked by Fritz, informs him that the PDA was lost.

– I know its location. So I will go pick it up.

– Should you ask someone to go do that, don't you think?

– That is true, but...

– Do you have something you do not want someone else to see?

With her face flushing, Aoi nodded.

Fritz smiled at the sight in front of him.

– In other words, do you have an image of the person you love the most as a wallpaper?

– Uhm, ah! That...

– Apparently hit the mark.

It really hit the mark.

– Very well, very well, if it is for a girl in love, I will support her. I'll let you pass.

– Really?

Aoi's expression flashed quickly.

– Hey, Fritz! What are you saying!

– The enemy is targeting those who are Slayer, that is, those who own Hundred. It has been observed that the damage to civilians so far is zero. Aoi is not a Slayer, and she does not own a Hundred, right?

– True.

Aoi nodded in agreement to what Fritz said.

– If that's the case, then it's fine. You should get on the next special bus.

– ... Special bus?

– Although basically the access and exit from Sangria is prohibited, some people have their business or their work from the beginning. That is why there is the departure of a special bus per hour for these people.

The departure time from the Little Garden side is at thirty minutes per hour. Fritz explains that from Sangria's side it is at 0 minutes of each hour \*.

**\* TN: That is, from Little Garden leaves at 4:30, 5:30, etc. and from Sangria they leave at 4:00, 5:00, etc.**

Only the citizens of Little Garden can approach them. Basically, it seems that the people of Sangria are not accepted.

Continuing, Latia complements.

– The last departure from the Sangria side is at seven PM. After it arrives, the bridge connection of ships is released (*Tree Ship*), since there will be no more trips, you must reach as far as the control point on the Sangria side at 7 o'clock. Agreed?

– Yes

– It seems to me. If you can't find your PDA, let us know so we contact the checkpoint that is there. Because if you don't have it, you'll not be able to enter Little Garden.



When Fritz said that, Aoi was approached to the special bus in the waiting area. There were only three people waiting there. They would be about the same age as their mother.

With only three people on board the bus, she arrived in Sangria in less than fifteen minutes. They were informed the same as the supplementary information given by Latia, that is, they must arrive at this place before seven o'clock in the afternoon. Now that it's five o'clock, she has a total of two hours.

Apparently it will take some time to find that building, since she doesn't have her PDA, but she is already approaching the district in question.

Undoubtedly, managing it one way or another, Aoi began to look while walking through the district.

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– Oh, there it was...

The door that leads to the roof of the building was finally opened. The PDA was falling through one of the holes in the railing that bordered the roof in all directions. Surely it fell there when they were flying towards Little Garden.

The remaining charge in the battery is very low, and presses the power button.

(What a relief...)

The figure of Hayato that was reflected on the screen was on hold. The glass was not cracked, she was relieved to know that it operated normally.

A lot of emails from Karen and Rebecca were coming.

(I did something bad to them)

Speaking of origins, when it was learned that Karen was transferring, from the beginning Rebecca misunderstood.

At that time, Aoi showed an exaggerated reaction, even if she liked the songs of Kisaragi Karen, she did not feel an adoration towards the Idols. Aoi instead admired Karen's older brother, Kisaragi Hayato.

Needless to say, at this point, Hayato is also popular among middle school girls. And there are rumors that he is dating Emilia who is also a first-year member of the special team of the martial arts department. It is also very presumptuous to say that you idolize something.

Being the case, thinking about it, she hoped that absolutely nobody could see it. That is why she came to Sangria on her own. For the missing PDA.

To be able to report that he had already found it, he would have liked to respond to the emails immediately, but there was not much time left to remain in Sangria. She would return the mail once she reached the checkpoint. Upon reaching the door that leads to the stairs, Aoi looks back.

– But if ... it's not you? We met yesterday, am I right?

That voice came to her back. Aoi's body was slightly intoxicated with terror.

(Do not tell me, that voice of now...)

It was the voice of the boy of yesterday.

At the same moment she turned around, but her main problem was that she could not see where the voice was from. As she wondered if maybe it had been her imagination, she heard the voice again.

– Here I am, here.

– Huh...?

The boy who fell in front of her, was the one who fought yesterday with Karen.

It was on the water tower, from which there is a door that goes towards the stairs. Moving his head, many times, from left to right, he approached Karen while relaxing his shoulders.

– Meet with the goddess of luck so abruptly, even though I just woke up, but what a beautiful day it is today!— That’s what I’d like to say, where is that delicious Slayer who was with you yesterday?

The boy asked while walking shows an evil smile that was not a smiley face, towards Aoi.

However, Aoi’s face, as expected, was twisting in fear.

– Stop, do not come near me...

Aoi backed away.

But the boy’s feet didn’t stop.

– Noo... stop...!

A cold sensation when touching the railing, was transmitted to her back. This tells her that she can no longer go backwards. Eventually, this distance with the boy, at some point will reach zero.

(Anyway, he’s about to catch me, so maybe, I too—)

Aoi could not take it anymore.

When it comes to this there is nothing but despair.

– Iyaaaaaaaaa!

With the impulse she sent the boy’s body flying, running towards the door that leads to the stairs. The boy, who was abruptly surprised, looked stunned at the departing figure.

– Hee, Contrary to her figure, she really has a splendid courage. Anyway, I’ve already seen her appearance, there’s no point in pursuing her, other than this bed that disappears—

The boy's mouth loosens, his eyes shining sharply like those of a beast.

– If I use that girl as a decoy, then I can find that delicious Slayer. I am anxious waiting for what comes after that.

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Aoi ran desperately down the stairs. In those moments, suddenly began to play a melody on the PDA. It's from an incoming call.

(Wh- what do I do?)

This way she can't hide anymore. And even if she does, the thunderous melody will betray her. As she ran, descending the stairs, Aoi took the PDA from her pocket and saw the screen.

(It's Rebecca's!)

She wants to talk.

She wants to scream for help.

Or maybe, should have as a first priority to escape?

It may be for better to turn off the PDA and reject the incoming call. While she doubts it, Aoi continues running down the stairs. And then, the PDA slips from her hands.

– Ah!

The PDA falls down the stairs, doing \*KATAN\* \*KATAN\* as impact sounds. Aoi, who tried to hold it, lost the balance of her body and rolled down the stairs.

[Hello, do you hear me, Aoi?]

Rebecca's voice was heard from the speaker. The PDA is probably in call mode.

But Aoi can't move. The vision becomes blurred, slowly begins to fade.

Her ears hear the steps of the boy approaching.

– ... Help me, Rebecca... Karen... they're going to kill me...

Aoi muttered in a voice that seemed to disappear.

– ... Save me, Hayato-san...

Finally, in saying those words, Aoi fainted.

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– Hey, Aoi, Aoi!!

In the school yard, Rebecca kept shouting Aoi's name with an anxious expression on her face, while holding the PDA in her hand.

The call connected, but there was no response.

– Rebecca-san, what's the matter...?

– There were some horrible sounds, Aoi asked for help and said that she was going to be killed...

– EEH!?

– Ah! The call was cut.

She tried to call again, but there was no connection.

There was a message saying that the device was off or out of reach of the coverage area.

– Aoi-chan, what's the matter with her...?

They are worried, because the situation has been strange all day today. That's why Karen decided to contact Charlotte because the voice that Rebecca heard was very distressing.

She thought about asking where she could find Aoi.

[The place where the radio waves were last emitted from Umino Aoi's PDA, comes from the city of Sangria]

In response to Karen's question, Charlotte responded with a delicate tone of voice.

– Huh...?

At what she heard, Karen was speechless.

– What's wrong, Karen? Where is Aoi?

– Aoi-san, is in Sangria.

– What did you say!?

Through the minds of both of them, the figure that attacked them yesterday flashed in their minds.

Maybe Aoi was attacked by that boy?

[Immediately I will contact the Student Council to find out the Slayers who are in Sangria to confirm her safety. Keep waiting in that place until this is clarified]

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– It is impossible that she has developed a homunculus. I'm surprised.

In one of the rooms of his mansion in Liberia, the president of Little Garden, Judal Harvey, was sitting down bowing his glass of red wine. That product is twenty years old.

A lot of types of cheese are also served at the coffee table in front of him.

– Are you trying to oppose Liza? Or is it that you are seriously planning to create an existence that is equal to God, exceeding Liza, I wonder?

Judal said addressing someone. But there was no response. He continued talking with blue cheese collected in his hand.

– But in the end you could not achieve it either. Even my mother

could not do it. Because Liza, in the end, is nothing more than an imitation of God. Compared to God, it is nothing more than a minuscule existence.

\*Hahaha\*, he laughed, then again he followed with his words.

– But, even if it is an imitation, it is terrifying not to know when it will wake up. It can survive without receiving food, which are the Hundred, for about a year, but through the hands of someone, has been released in the city of Sangria.

\*TOP\* \*TOP\*, Judal poured the wine into the glass that was available.

– Undoubtedly, the *Homunculus*, Joker, your trump card, is targeting Liza, right? Now, does he know something about Liza, I wonder?

Putting the empty bottle on the table, Judal asks that someone a question.

– If so, let me ask you just one question. Between Joker and Little Garden, who do you think will be the winner?

## Chapter 4: Duel / Princess and Diva / Dual Act

One hour remaining to start the duel, Hayato was in the reception room of the palace.

He was in the room that was brought yesterday for the first time. There are two reasons about why Hayato is here. One of them is to wait for Kilfelthar and Claudia who went to pick up Sakura who was coming to Gudenburg using the high speed train and the other to wait for Emilia who had gone to change clothes. Emilia had been wearing the uniform of Little Garden during the morning, but since today was the duel, she was asked by Kate to change clothes, since there would be many high-ranking officers who would be present, including King Granald. Of course Emilia was reluctant to change her clothes like yesterday, and although she put up resistance, she finally had to do it against her will. He had separated from Emilia for about fifteen minutes.

The moment for the duel was approaching minute by minute.

(Sakura hasn't contacted me, will she be really ok?)

While anxiety dominated him, \*TON\* \*TON\*, the door made that sound.

– Hayato-sama, we have already finished the preparations. Hime-sama is already waiting for you in the vehicle.

It's Kate's voice.

He opened the door and she entered the room. Hayato got up from the couch together with the bag he held in his hand. What was inside is his Variable Suit. He was told that he should take it when he left Little Garden, since it can't be predicted when and where he has to fight against the Savage.



When he got out from the corridor and left the palace, there was a vehicle exclusively for the royal family, the same one he used yesterday.

– Should I store your luggage?

Kate stops walking right in front of the vehicle and asks him. It was to know whether or not to place the bag in the trunk of the car.

– I'll take it with me inside, so I'll do it.

This is the situation. It is not known what can happen.

It would be a problem if it were to damage even the Variable Suit, which is why it is better to keep it by his side.

That was Hayato's decision.

– As you say. Now, get in please.

When Kate said that, a man who looked like the driver and who was standing in front of the vehicle, opened the backseat door.

– Ah, Hayato...

Emilia, who looked at Hayato's appearance and murmured his name, was wearing the same dress as when she went to meet the king. Also, for some reason she looked nervous.

– Ah! Wait a minute!

When Hayato got into the car, Emilia told the driver that tried to close the door from the outside, and Emilia turned her eyes to Kate.

– Will you stay to do homework, Kate?

– Yes

Kate nods and continues.

– I have a duty to clean the rooms of Hime-sama and Hayato-sama.

– Would you like to go with me? Being surrounded by Otou-sama, Douglas and the cabinet of ministers, it will be a nuisance to keep their company.

She had thought about it since, after this, Hayato will not be with her.

Emilia considers that she only wants to have an ally close to her, she does not ask for more.

– For much that you say that, Hime-sama, because I have work to do, I will not be able to be with you. And, that reminds me, Claudia-sama and Kilfelthar, why are not they next to you?

– Oh, Claudia and Kilfelthar are in another task at the moment.

– All right, then I'll pray for Hayato-sama's victory while I clean up. Have a good day, Hayato-sama, Hime-sama. I pray that you have good fortune in the war—

Then the conversation with Kate ended.

With a \*BATON\*, the door was closed, and the car began to move.

Then, Emilia immediately approaches his ear and asks him.

– Is it like you still haven't had contact with Claudia and the others?

– Ummm...

Hayato frowned indicating that he was worried.

– I also sent an email to Sakura, but she hasn't answered either.

Emilia speaks slowly and close to his ear, taking into consideration that the driver did not listen to them. Similarly, Hayato also responded with a low voice.

– For some reason I have a bad feeling. Even if the Hundred was originally sent, it is very strange that they haven't arrived at this

time, I will call Claudia again. It is also absolutely necessary to tell them immediately that we are heading towards the arena.

Emilia takes the PDA out of her pocket and tries to contact Claudia. But, it's impossible, it does not call.

– Hmmm, I can't connect...

– In that case, I'll try with Sakura.

Hayato also takes his PDA and tries to contact Sakura, but the result is the same. It is announced that there is no coverage or that the device is turned off.

– Why is this happening? I don't think there is no coverage area around the station...

Emilia tilts with the sound.

The vehicle keeps moving towards the arena.

– How much more is it for us to get to the stadium?

– Hmm, would you say about ten minutes?

It has been five minutes since the vehicle began to move. This means that the distance between the arena and the palace is about fifteen minutes.

\*TURURURU\*, \*TURURURU\*...

– Oh...!

The melody of the incoming call emitted by Hayato's PDA resonated inside the car.

Looks at the screen. It's an incoming call from Kirishima Sakura.

[It finally connected!]

When Hayato pressed the button, Sakura's voice of emotion was so loud that his ears ached.

– Why, so suddenly the voice so strong?

[Because it has finally connected! I'm grateful that after getting here you're fine!]

– Get here ... Could you meet Claudia and Kilfelthar?

[Err, somehow ... but, after this, the worst is really coming. The traffic lights are off due to a big blackout and this has turned into chaos. Therefore, the car is stuck in the middle of traffic congestion. In addition, radio waves from the PDA are outside the prefecture \*. Honestly, this is a terrible sabotage]

TN: Textually says like that the kanji.県外 = kengai, outside the prefecture.

– “Sabotage” ... don't tell me—

[Claudia says that what has been happening at this moment, is definitely due to an intervention by Prime Minister Bratt who is related to Douglas]

– ... for real...?

[But we're fine. Leaving Kilfelthar driving the vehicle, and being armed here as well as Claudia, we will arrive quickly using energy. Where are you now, Hayato-kun?]

– To be honest we are heading towards the arena.

[In that case, I will personally leave the Hundred in the arena]

In the same instant Sakura said that.

[It's dangerous, Sakura-san!]

Claudia's voice was heard, and at the same time he heard  
\*PAAAAAAN\*, the firing of a gun.

[—KYA!?!]

What he heard next was Sakura's scream.

– Hey, Sakura! What is happening!?

Even though Hayato shouted, he did not hear the return voice. And the call was also disconnected.

– Hayato, what happened?

– Suddenly a shot was heard accompanied by Sakura's scream, and then the call was cut off.

– Huh? ... That, don't tell me that was the bad feeling...?

– Sakura's words, she told me that they had received sabotage.

–...Sabotage? Why something like that...?

– There was a blackout at the station and the signal stopped, then they were stuck in traffic, among other things.

– Wait a minute. That means they will not be able to deliver the Hundred on time....

– Sakura and Claudia seemed to get out of the vehicle, armed, saying that using *energy* they could deliver it quickly and—.

He heard the scream moments ago.

He was anxious. It was the same for Emilia.

– I can't be helped. I will go to pick it up myself.

As soon as the private vehicle stopped at the traffic lights, Emilia opened the door and went down the road.

– Hey, where are you going...?

– Emilia smiled sweetly at Hayato, took the Hundred that was on her chest, squeezed it firmly, then shouted.

– HUNDRED, ON!

With a radiant bluish white, she displayed < < Mist that Covers Everything > > *Arms Shroud*, in the waistband of the dress, and

created a kind of propulsion device “*Thruster*“, similar to wings, which is the same as Claire uses, in her back.

– Using this I will fly and get to where Claudia and the others are, to get the Hundred. In this way I will get there faster, and even if I don’t know what the situation is or what might happen, it will be better to face them with all my might.

– ... “Might”, are you okay with that suit?

Emilia is not wearing her Variable Suit now. But her appearance is of a dress.

– No problem, no problem. This clothes, its skirt is long, and by flying through the skies, even if I’m in a fight, nothing will be seen inside of it. So far, I feel comfortable not having to strain and have to be hiding things like other women.

– No, I didn’t mean that...

Okay, if Emilia’s ability is enough, then it may not be a matter of concern.

– In any case, we don’t have time. I will definitely deliver the Hundred before the battle starts. Hayato, trust me and wait for me. Tell my father that I’ll be late. Until then, take care!

Emilia injects energy into the gun barrel and flies powerfully in the direction of the station.

\*\*\*

– You, don’t move!

Sakura and Claudia turn their eyes towards the place where the voice came from.

There were more than ten people belonging to the Gutenberg police, and each of them pointed their gun.

– Hey! Why is it now that we are being targeted by the police!? And as if that wasn’t enough, they shoot my PDA! I will sue them!

– Silence! Surrender and raise your hands right now, terrorists!

That was what a man of average height said and who was in his forties. He is the captain of the Public Order Maintenance Unit under the direct control of the Privy Council. It was also he who shot Sakura's PDA.

– Huh? Wait a minute. We terrorists? What nonsense are you saying!?

– There's no point in continuing to deny it. You are being sought internationally for being members of the anti-Slayer organization. You are some dreadful and terrible terrorists!

– Huh?

– Check this out!

The captain of the law enforcement unit pulled out two sheets of paper. In them, the faces of Sakura and Claudia were printed.

– Hey! What the hell does this mean!?

Sakura, who is next to Claudia, asks her the question.

– It seems that the Prime Minister of this country has influence on public safety and wanted us to be on the list of those wanted by the police. Currently the Prime Minister is our enemy, as he has links with Emilia-sama's fiancé—

– Whaaaaat! How did something like this happen!?

Holding their weapons, the members of the POMU approached them. As Sakura stepped back, carrying with both hands the small box that contained Hayato's Hundred, she raised her voice to the forces of the POMU.

– Hey you, is it that you don't know who I am? I am the Idol that travels around the world, the < < Princess Maiden of the Temple of the Land of the Rising Sun > > *Oriental Wizard*, Kirishima Sakura!

– Ha! Trying to fool us with your lies, impostor!

It was the captain who screamed.

– We have information that the terrorists have stolen reports from Gudenburg's army and that they are acting with someone trying to impersonate an Idol!

– But what are you saying! If you think I'm an impostor, then listen to me sing a song and—.

– Shut up!

– Wha—

Simultaneously with a dry sound, Sakura is left with an impressed view. The captain fired a bullet at Sakura's feet.

– If you continue to put up resistance, next time I will not fail!

– ... Tch!

Sakura leaves her face tense.

– At this point, there is no other method but to use force.

Muttering very low, Claudia continued.

– Sakura-san, leave this to me. Please deliver that Hundred to Kisaragi Hayato.

– I'll do it.

Saying that with a small voice, Sakura nodded. The public security staff was getting closer and closer.

Claudia quickly pulls out the Hundred that was on her chest, holds it firmly and then screams.

– HUNDRED ON!

Particles of a light brown color form a huge steel ball in her right arm. Seeing that scene, and while the forces of the POMU were disturbed, Sakura also picked up her Hundred from her chest and screamed.



– < <The arrival of the Songstress> > HUNDRED ON!

Along with the appearance of emerald green particles, four wings appeared on Sakura's back.

– Ack, are these guys from the anti-Slayer organization capable of deploying weapons? Is the rumor that they are artificial Variant true?

One of the members of the POMU shouted.

– Damn, but that person really is a Variant!

Screaming, Sakura made a high jump, landing on the branch of a tree.

– Do not let the impostor of Kirishima Sakura escape! Shoot!

– I won't allow it!

Claudia uses the steel ball and knocks down the forces of the POMU that were ready to shoot.

– Sakura-san, now!

– Understood!

Sakura jumps to the opposite side of where the POP staff is located. Her destination is further ahead, the observation platform that is located on the cliff.

– Although I am mainly a singer, I must fulfill my role as Slayer. Even if I can't fight, I know there's something I can do!

Sakura jumped very high, landing on the parapet of the observatory with her feet. After manipulating *energy* for about a hundred meters, she landed on the ground, subtly began to float and then immediately began to accelerate while she was in the air. She was heading to her destination, the arena, which is where Hayato is waiting.

\*\*\*

Has she got rid of her persecutors, since five minutes have passed?

Sakura is impatient and looks at the clock located in the park.

(Faster, faster, I can't be late for Hayato-kun!)

But, her speed is already at her limit. By the time she reaches the arena, the time for the start of the duel will have been reached.

It may be that she won't make it.

– —Wha...

Sakura looks back quickly as she suddenly feels a presence of *energy* approaching from behind. She tried to deploy the barrier but, at that moment, it was too late.

In the very moment she turned back, something brushed Sakura's face, and one of the wings on her back was cut off.

– But what was that, right now?

Looking back to the place to where that happened a moment ago, a blade was falling towards the ground. It seems that it was created using *energy*. It becomes particles and disappears.

(Where the hell will it have thrown that? And to top it off, it dares to make a wound on my face, I'm an Idol! Tomorrow I'll be live!)

While she was filled with anger, looks around her. Then she feels an approaching *energy*. This time it's from the right. When she looks in that direction, an object that shone for a brief moment approached at high speed.

– Is it another blade made of energy?

Sakura changes the box to her left hand, extends her right hand in a hurry and deploys the barrier. This time, the blade was blocked.

(Now, where will it be from?)

She looked toward the top of the Jungle-gym that was on the right. However, she could not see the figure of the person.

– ... Agh, who is it?

When she noticed, she felt a presence on her back. She tied her hands behind her back to Sakura.

– Appearing in the back without me noticing...!

Turning her head, she saw that it was a woman dressed in a black suit. She put the tip of the blade in Sakura's nape with the intention of stabbing her.

– Give me the Hundred.

Without even having heard her words, this woman was on Douglas's side—She must be a murderer with the mission to steal the Hundred.

– Oh? What are you talking about? By Hundred do you mean the one I have, I suppose?

Said Sakura trying to make fun of her. But the woman remains calm.

– I don't mean yours, but the Hundred of Kisaragi Hayato.

Along with this, she puts the blade closer to the nape of the neck.

– But I don't know what you mean by what you're telling me!

– Give me the content of that box! Give it to me!

The woman was rushing to take the box from Sakura.

– Stop!

Sakura protects the box by covering it, surrounding it with her body.

(What, what should I do?)

The strength of the woman was considerable. Also, she had a blade. In this way, it would be a matter of seconds to be stolen. If that happens, all the efforts made will be in vain.

– Hand it over!

– Kyaa!

Tossing Sakura aside, the woman took the box by force.

– Please, give it back!

Sakura, who was knocked to the ground, quickly got up and jumped in the direction of the woman to retrieve the box.

– Gaah! Don't bother!

The woman swung the blade and tried to keep Sakura's body at a certain distance.

A voice arrives there.

– Sakura-san, stand aside!

A smile bloomed on Sakura's face like a rose.

That's because the person who owns that voice, fell from the sky, and landed in front of Sakura standing in the way of the woman.

– Emile! Why are you here...? Also, in that appearance. You seem like you are an Ohime-sama. In fact, it really is as if you were an Ohime-sama...

– I have to say that as for that, I'm not Emile, but Emilia. If you allow me.

Saying that, she reduced the *Thrusters* of her *Arms Shroud* to particles.

– Tell me, is that box where Hayato's Hundred is located inside, right?

Emilia looks at the woman's hand and snatches the box from there.

– ... Kuh

– Ok, I must quickly deliver this to Hayato.

– Like I would let you do something like that!

The woman used the ability of her own Hundred to assimilate with the environment that surrounds her, doing this to leave under the feet of Emilia. And then as soon as she revealed herself, she attacked Emilia with the blade she produced in her hand.

– Ups...

Emilia suddenly loses her body balance, but quickly manages to recover, and creates a rapier sword using *Arms Shroud*, to block the woman's blade.

– Sakura-san, hold this for a moment.

Emilia throws the box to Sakura, handing her Hayato's Hundred.

– Give me that!

The woman tries to change the target to Sakura, but Emilia does not allow it.

– This is bad, the start time of the duel is approaching. I can't keep you as an enemy in this situation. I will have to act seriously.

Day after day, being the training partner in the use of the sword with Hayato, the expertise of Emilia with the sword is decent.

With this she quickly blows the blade out of the woman's hand, reduces the sword into particles, and with *Arms Shroud*, pulls out a Hula Hula \* and throws it as if she were going to wrap something with her ring.

\* TN: Yes, hula hula. Specifically: フラフーブ furafuupu.

If it is thrown from the head and her body is kept inside, then it can be restrained, it is something that is made to capture. The woman, seeing this, she realized. She quickly disappeared from sight using the skill of her Hundred.

It is impossible to find the location of the target if it can't be seen, but Emilia is not at all exasperated.

– Sakura-san, do you know where she is?

– Over there!

Immediately after answering the question, a spot on the ground began to glow with emerald green. With this, the figure of the woman was exposed.

– How, what did you do to know where I was?

– The ability of my Hundred is that of field control. It is as easy as feeling the energy of the place that I explore and thus find where you were hiding.

– ... Already here with this, is the end, don't you think?

Emilia manipulated the shiny ring of her hand, passed it over the woman's head, and restrained her body.

– Even if I leave this place, the ring will not disappear for at least fifteen minutes. The duel has already begun.

With that said, Emilia approached Sakura.

– Well, then, give me the box.

– Huh? I can't do something like give it to you. That's because I'm the one who will take it to Hayato-kun.

– What are you talking? We don't know if there will be traps along the way, I will also fly faster if I go on my own.

– But, thanks to me now you, you could do something, don't you agree?

– That may be true, but...

– Then, take me with you. Or should I say, I will not give it to you unless you take me there. First of all, it was a promise with Hayato-kun that I would see his duel!

It was certainly that kind of promise. Emilia remembers that.

– Aaa fine, I'll do it. There is no point to continuously discuss here. Let's go immediately to the arena. We don't know if the duel has really started.

\*\*\*

– Is time.

That was told to Hayato, who had just changed to his Variable Suit, by two soldiers who wore the uniform of Gudenburg's army. Both soldiers seem to be almost thirty years old and it is likely that they are not Slayers.

– Emilia is already here?

– .....

Trying to get their attention, he got no response.

(How complicated ...)

As things are, he will have no alternative but to fight with that poor quality Hundred he has in his right hand.

(I wonder if with this I'll be able to carry out Dr. Charlotte's plan...)

Honestly, I no longer believe in myself.

– Come on, hurry up!

If he decides to move at a slower pace to gain time, he is rushed by the soldiers in front.

He already reached the battlefield. Douglas, who is dressed in his

Red Variable Suit, is waiting in the center. Looking sideways briefly, he could see the figure of the king, the Pope, and of Prime Minister Bratt in a room closed with glass at the top of the seats of the spectators.

Unfortunately, both Emilia's and Claudia's figures, he could not find them.

– How unfortunate for you, Kisaragi Hayato.

Laughing in a burlesque way and looking down on him, Douglas spoke.

– Unfortunate you say, and why?

– Princess Emilia is not here. I guess it's because she doesn't want to see the person she loves to lose?

He laughs provocatively.

– You shouldn't say that kind of thing as if was nothing. Although I wonder if it's a habit, but why did you do it?

– What are you saying?

Laughing, Douglas deployed his armament.

– HUNDRED ON!

The ring on his right hand shone in a red color, and a red sword appeared. His Hundred, < <Deep Crimson Glory> > *Red Glory*, is of the Chevalier type.

Douglas says pointing the blade of the sword at Hayato.

– Bastard, you also deploy your weapons, fast.

– Emm, I think Emilia will be here shortly. Would it be impossible to make you wait until then?

Of course he would not even consider accepting it. It is a proposal that considers extending the time, even for a single second.



-You bastard, what are you saying! His Majesty and the Pope are very busy people who are watching this duel. It isn't possible to extend the start of this fight for a second. Also, why are you so sure that Princess Emilia will be here soon?

Douglas has a totally inadequate laugh that floats on his face. He won't give at all even a fraction of a second.

Maybe he should have said he forgot to bring his Hundred, surely he would have gained some time. But, there is also the possibility of being given a multi-purpose Hundred. And with that he only could demonstrate the level of force as if it were the same as a product of poor quality, therefore, his situation would not change.

(Being already in this situation, is there something I can really do?)

Maybe he can't do anything about the duel, but he can try to buy time. After all, he had no choice but to trust Claudia, Sakura and Emilia.

Hayato, who had prepared for the worst, screamed taking the Hundred and holding it in his chest to move it forward.

– HUNDRED ON!

The reddish Hundred became particles and *Hien* appears in the hands of Hayato.

(It's the same as last night, it has the same appearance and weight as the usual one...)

But, there is no doubt that it is a product of poor quality.

Even if he tries to concentrate *energy sense*, he can't feel it in the pattern of the sword.

– Then, let's start the duel.

When Douglas said that, the soldiers inside began to leave the battlefield, one after the other. Then, the doors leading to the waiting room were completely closed.

(Now, what will we do?)

Even if Emilia brings the Hundred, she will not be able to enter the battlefield. Although it is not visible from the seat of the spectators, there is a barrier based on tempered glass.

(But, if we talk about them, they will think about something)

He will have to trust them to the end, since apart from gaining time, it is unlikely that he can do anything else.

– Get ready, Hayato!

Douglas affirms his sword.

Preparing, as he was told, Hayato also prepared his sword.

Along with the sounding of the ring on the battlefield, the battle began.

However, neither Douglas nor Hayato move. Time runs, five seconds, ten seconds pass.

– You'll not come?

Asks Douglas, as if his patience was running out.

– If you don't move, then I'll go there!

Douglas raises his sword, pointing to the sky.

– Red Dragon\*—Glory to the Kingdom of Wenz!

**\* TN: This dragon is Chinese, using the kanji 竜 = tatsu**

Along with that scream, his body is completely covered with a thick red armor.

Full armament, so unexpected—.

On his head appears a helmet with the figure of a dragon.

– Here I go, Kisaragi Hayato!

Douglas kicks the ground and launches to attack Hayato.

And, right at that moment.

With a \*BANG\*, all the lights in the arena went out.

– Wh- What?!

The battlefield abruptly turned dark.

Confused by the unexpected fact, Hayato looked around.

Before such Hayato, and without a doubt, Douglas decides to attack.

– ...Kuh!

Hayato, at the last moment, managed to repel Douglas's attack with his *Hien*.

– Wait a minute! Don't you see there's something wrong?

– Whether you acknowledge it or not, the duel has already begun!

Douglas raises *Red Glory* high above his head.

– Begun you say, but not in this type of situation, which is not appropriate! Even in the audience, the situation there is also in chaos!

Hayato yelled while dodging Douglas's attack.

With this darkness, he can't see anything in the field, not even what is in front of him.

– Don't tell me, you bastard, that you think this is a coincidence?

Mocking, Douglas smiled evilly.

That is why Hayato is confused.

– No way, you're also involved in this!?

– Hahaha, that’s right! It’s the same as with your Hundred!

– Kuh...!

Uncovering his own crimes, Douglas makes another attack.

– I knew it, so there was really someone who was hurting Sakura and Claudia, it was you!

– It doesn’t matter a single shit what you say!

Douglas executes another attack. The trajectory of a red sword that comes from above is seen in the darkness.

Hayato flew and dodged it.

– Are you happy, winning this way?

– ...Win you say? Haha, what are you saying!? My goal is not to win against you, Kisaragi Hayato!

–... What...?

– My goal is to steal your fiancée and kill you, for shaming me!

Douglas declares that, with the tip of his sword in his right hand, *Red Glory*, pointing towards Hayato.

– ... You’ll kill me...?

– That’s right, make it look like an accident in the middle of battle!

In other words, it was to not show the circumstances to the audience.

Eventually, not being stopped by anyone, for sure end up leading to oblivion to Hayato, thanks to the blackout that has occurred.

And in this particular situation, it would not be known who could attack and from where. Since there is the possibility that the female escort is hiding. If you add to that, the constant kicks from Douglas, the use of energy to exert pressure with his sword, to those attacks,

is considerable.

Of course, the sword is also granted *energy*. In this situation, it is impossible to judge to what extent it is able to withstand the product of poor quality.

– How persistent, Kisaragi Hayato!

– That’s it, because I can’t give up. I will resist until Emilia and the others arrive!

Douglas, who exchanged attacks on the low quality product, turned his body, and lifted *Red Gloria* over his head. *Energy* covers the sword, looking like a burning flame.

– Even if she came now, what will you do!

– ...kuh!

It is the most powerful attack Hayato has received so far, and by using his two arms to block it, they are numbed.

– Wow, how unexpected that you have blocked it at this point, Kisaragi Hayato.

– I trust that Emilia and the others will do something ... Until they arrive, I can’t afford to lose!

– ... Tch, you’re a completely irritable man!

Saying that, as if he were spitting saliva, Douglas continued.

– If you say you want to go so far, then I’ll give you damn true despair, I’ll make you talk no more of hope! *Dual Act*!

The ring of his left hand shines and transforms into a black sword, with a sinister appearance that merges with the darkness.

– ... Kuh, to challenge that is a little...

– Obviously, deploying it when you are attacking is something unexpected to do, but, you are special, Kisaragi Hayato. Make sure

you die with enough desperation while < <Achieving Absolute Disaster> > *Death Star* burns even your sight!

Holding *Red Gloria* in his right hand—and in his left hand to *Death Star*, Douglas prepares to attack.

– Hahaha, with this darkness, you will not be able to see *Death Star's* trail!

Certainly, it is as Douglas says. Compared to *Red Gloria*, *Death Star's* trajectory is quite difficult to see. Apparently, it is for that reason among all that there was a power shortage.

His hands are being completely occupied. Moreover, since there are two swords now, the number of movements has doubled. The blade of the product of low quality, by intercepting so many slashes, it would not be surprising that it is on the verge of breaking at any time.

Douglas has also noticed.

– Apparently the time is soon over for you, Kisaragi Hayato! Better yet, this will be your <undoing> *end*!

Red aura on his right arm. Black aura on his left arm.

Wrapping the two swords with a powerful energy that completely covers his body, enough to make the body seem to be split in two, Douglas attacks.

– Now, this will really be your <undoing> *end*, Kisaragi Hayato! Your life too, of course! You, before my *Dual Act*, you will receive the blow of defeat!

A blade wrapped in something similar to a burning flame, hits hard to the product of bad quality.

Somehow it has been able to hold up until now, but, nevertheless, with the impact of the attack of the black blade, finally its limit has arrived.

– Ah...!

The blade of the poor quality product broke, becoming particles, disappearing as if they were bubbles.

– Hahahahaha, this is the power of my *Dual Act*! You saw it, Kisaragi Hayato!

One thrust of *Red Gloria* was projected from the right arm that was thrown from the side. With this, Hayato's body was sent to the border of the field.

– Aaghh!

He received a very strong impact on his back.

– Kh, agh ... damn...

The blow he received on the side of his chest was fierce and painful. It may be that he has two, or maybe three, broken ribs. Still, Hayato tries to get up off the ground, with his poor quality item broken. Then, Douglas comes to him.

– Aren't you going to pray for your life?

While looking down at Hayato, who was trying to get up, Douglas kicked Hayato's body, sending him flying.

– Gaah!

*Hien*, the poor quality item, separated from his hand, falling on the sand.

– Something like this, I must resist!

This time, Hayato continued talking as he laid his hands directly on the ground and tried to get up again.

– Unfortunately, I don't have the slightest intention of being cornered. Definitely **WE** can't be defeated by someone like you!

– We? What, you rascal, are you still thinking that Emilia will arrive here?

– Of course.

Hayato responded immediately.

– Emilia and the others being here, and even the ones in Little Garden against the *Homunculus*, for no reason we will be defeated!

When Hayato gave those names, Douglas' eyebrows began to move.

– Why mention here Little Garden and the *Homunculus*?

He caught the bait, Hayato thought.

It is for that reason that, he decided to follow that line. All in order to gain time.

– We already know. It was you who released the *Homunculus* in the city of Sangria.

– Haha, HAHAAHAHAHA!

With a very strong tone, Douglas laughed.

– What are you saying so suddenly, huh? I wonder, if perhaps it is just conjecture or something like that?

In fact, it is as he said.

But, he can't say it out loud.

That is why he must make Douglas let the evidence escape through his mouth.

– Well, even so, I think it's fine. I will tell it especially to you, totally. Yes it is true.

– Huh...?

Hayato was surprised by the sudden confession. And this because he did not think he was going to talk so easily.

– Why do you put a surprised face? What did you think that I



wasn't going to do it? Or is it that you even thought you could buy time with this question? Anyway, this is a stupid conversation. No matter what I say to a man who is going to die right now, I won't have any issues. I will admit it obediently.

– Then tell me, why you decided to do something like that! There have been victims in Sangria! Even my sister was attacked by the *Homunculus*!

– Hahaha, why, you ask? Well, that's it, it's decided that you're not the only one who has embarrassed me, Kisaragi Hayato!

– What have you just say?

Douglas continues with his words, with a look of madness lodged in his pupil.

– To summarize, to me, Princess Emilia, who has rejected my engagement, and was after you, even reaching Little Garden, has committed the same offense! That is why if I kill the person that Emilia loves, I will also destroy Little Garden, which is where she now resides, and experience the sufferings of hell! All this has been said by God for it to be done. Otherwise, the battle weapons used for Little Garden could not have reached my hands by mere luck. That is why the suffering I have experienced—no, the people of Wenz's suffering, who have lived it for years, I will give it to you!

Hayato dodged *Red Gloria* that was thrown down by Douglas, while rolling on the ground. While aiming there, Douglas began to attack with his other weapon, *Death Star*.

– As long as I win this battle, I will become the commander of the Unified Slayers troops of the army of Britannia, so at dusk, with Bratt carry out a coup d'état and take full control of the Federation of Britannia! Later, we will join Al Saram, and taking Warslan and Liberia beyond destruction, this change within the world will make Wenz definitely stand on top of the world! That is what God has demanded!

– That's your goal! But it's ridiculous! To achieve that goal according to what you say, many lives are going to be sacrificed!

Hayato continued trying to block the attacks of Douglas who was attacking with both swords frantically, picking up from the ground what was left of *Hien*.

– ... Sacrifices? And what about it!? Our nation was treated like real slaves, while Gudenburg was developing itself! What I am doing is nothing different from it! But the world has changed! And now is the time to take the opportunity to revenge! It's because now I have the power to use that opportunity! All thanks to this power that God has given us, *Homunculus*!

– Don't be kidding with that! Utilizing God for your convenience, and what is that, create hatred with hatred! The cycle is repeating itself once again! And even to you, the day will come when they will want to revenge themselves!

– Silence, meddlesome!

Douglas uses *Red Gloria* to send flying the bad quality item out of Hayato's hands, breaking it. When it falls to the ground, it becomes particles and returns to being a Hundred.

Simultaneously, Hayato's armament disappears. Giving as a result, that is in a state of being totally cornered in the field.

– This is the end. Die, Kisaragi Hayato!

Douglas raised very high *Red Gloria* against Hayato, who nothing else can do.

\*DON\*, a sound resounded, one of the doors in the audience opened completely.

– Hayato!

– Hayato-kun!

– Emilia, Sakura!

When he looked in the direction where he subtly heard the voices that said his name, he could see the figure of two people who appeared from behind the door. Both were with their armaments

deployed, and they were shining.

Emilia has the rapier sword in her hand. From her back, the voices of the security guards of the arena and the ones that respond directly to the Privy Council, the POMU are heard. In addition, there is Prime Minister Bratt. He strongly gives the order to the guards and to the POMU.

– Damn, hurry up and arrest the terrorists!

– Emilia, hurry!

– I know that!

Emilia kicks the concrete and jumps. Using the rapier sword, it gives a hit to the reinforced glass. If the barrier had been in normal conditions, even Emilia, with all her strength, could not have made a single scratch. But, due to the power outage, the barrier is not deployed.

In an instant she knew. Then, Emilia kicked out with her foot, and with her armament aimed at the tempered glass, she drew a line, making a big hole.

– Quick Sakura, the Hundred!

– Yes!

Sakura got rid of her persecutors who were the arena's guards and the POMU, taking the Hundred out of the small box, throwing it to Hayato.

– Receive it, Hayato!

– As if I would allow something like that!

Douglas halved the Hundred that was thrown at Hayato, using his *Red Gloria*.

– ...It can't be...

Sakura's eyes that saw that, were painted in despair.

Sakura, who was dismayed to the point that she did not resist the guards who came to attack from behind. Hayato and Emilia were the same.

All they did was be completely lost, staring at the Hundred that had been cut in half.

– Haha, hahahaha! God, God is my ally!

Douglas yelled as if he had already been the winner, and for a second time he lifted *Red Gloria* over his head.

– Die, Kisaragi Hayato!

– Hayato!

– Hayato-kun!

With the screams from the bottom of the hearts of Emilia and Sakura, Hayato rolled on the sand, dodging the sword that came down, and picked up one of the halves of the Hundred that was cut in two.

– Don't you know when to give up!? Is it that you will get something by grabbing that!?

Douglas tried to cut Hayato who was crawling on the ground. At that moment, Hayato increased the *energy* of the Hundred fragment that was in his hand. With this, the Hundred shines tenuously, showing a reaction.

(Even in this condition, it can be used...!)

The first and most important thing to do is to prevent Douglas's attack. With his hand extended towards the front of his body and holding the Hundred, Hayato exclaims.

– < <Deploy Barrier> > HUNDRED ON!

A barrier deploys in front of him. After containing the attack of Douglas, Hayato rolls on the ground, picking up the other fragment of the Hundred and gets up.

(In this fight, I absolutely will not lose!)

When he looks at where Emilia and Sakura are, they were captured by the guards led by Bratt and forced against their will to lie on the ground face down.

(Neither Douglas nor Bratt, I absolutely will not forgive them!)

His heart jumped, giving very strong beats.

Under this strong emotion, it seems that the Variant Virus within the body is responding to it.

And as planned by Charlotte, Douglas told everything about his plan.

All this should have been recorded by the small voice recorder, which is inside the case where he can store the Hundred, located at the base of the neck of the Variable Suit.

If he manages to win this battle and make a broadcast of this recording, then it will be the victory of Hayato and the others.

(That's right, I have to win!)

When deciding that with all his might, the fragments of the Hundred, held one in each hand, shone brightly.

(Anyway, they'll become particles.) Even if it's split in two, it should somehow—)

In the end, that would be no more than the ideal scenario.

But—.

(This Hundred should be able to respond to my emotions, since, this is the Hundred that was made for me!)

Hayato says himself with much conviction.

– Kisaragi Hayato, you, don't tell me...

– Yes, that's right.

Actually, I do not know if I can do it. But, I have to try it, I will not stay like this!

Hayato screamed loudly as he held the Hundred in both hands with all his strength.

– HUNDRED ON!

His body is covered with thicker than normal armor.

– Full armament!

Emilia gave a voice of joy.

– And besides that—.

Sakura looked surprised.

– Yes, it has the same *Dual Act* as Douglas!

– ...Why you, bastard, can you have *Dual Act*!?

Douglas yelled, as he stepped back, giving the impression that he was scared.

– About that, I don't know.

I never heard that I could do a double deployment from a broken Hundred.

However, in the hands of Hayato, there is certainty that he possesses something similar to a katana.

Although the one with the right hand is a bit smaller, it is the black katana *Hien* as such that is in his left hand. On the other hand, in his right hand, something he has never seen has manifested, it was a white katana. Its color looks exactly like Emilia's armament.

– But, this Hundred is able to respond to my emotions. I wanted that, that I would not lose this fight. For all those who put their effort into bringing the Hundred to me, I will definitely win!



Hayato prepares his two katanas and goes after Douglas. To that attack, Douglas tries to block it with his two swords. A total of four swords are found, which collide in pair. But in terms of sword handling, Hayato is superior.

– ... Kuh, damn! What is this power...!

– It's our power! It's the power of Little Garden's Slayers! You, who tried to win with that cowardly form, I will not be defeated!

– Gah...!

Douglas *Red Gloria* is broken by the black katana that Hayato balanced.

Seeing the opening he achieved with that maneuver, Hayato launched an attack with his white katana.

– Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

Even though he hit him over the armor, he struck splendidly on Douglas's shoulder.

– Gah ... shit...!

Douglas's body collapsed, falling with his knees on the ground.

Picking up *Death Star* from the ground with his left hand, he tried to get up once more, but apparently he is not able to achieve it.

He falls back to the floor again. This time, his full armament was also cancelled.

Hayato stands in front of that Douglas and asks him.

– Does it look like you give up?

– ...So I see.

Muttering as if surrendering, Douglas extends his hand to Hayato. It is then that the tension in Hayato's body disappears. And with that, Hayato presents his hand.

But the eyes of Douglas that captured that moment, shone with rage.

– Stupid, as if I was going to give up!

Douglas, who was already holding the red sword in his other hand, aimed it at Hayato's throat in order to cut it.



But instantaneously, Hayato's eyes shone a golden color. This made him move in a hundredth of a second to avoid him.

Hayato's Variant power responded to the crisis that was shown.

– Wh- What...? How did you dodge it...?

He has the impression that it was a last attack, using all the strength he had left.

Douglas's body fell to the ground.

\*BATAN\*

– It seems that I arrived late somehow.

That was the voice that was heard in the field. It belongs to Serivia.

She came down to the field from the audience, which was where she was.

– Who the hell are you!?

The guards who had Emilia and Sakura under control, complained to Serivia.

– Don't put your hands on Serivia-sama.

– I will not forgive you if you do something to her.

– ... Serivia?

– My name is Serivia Notredame, Paulo III, and the current *Puritaria's* Pope.

– What, what the?!

– Leaving that aside, what do you think you are doing to these people? She is Emilia Gutenberg, the third daughter of the King of the Kingdom of Britannia, Granald Frederick Arthur Gutenberg. Release her immediately. Of course, also to her friend who is at her side.

– As you say, Pontiff-sama. But they were who short-circuited the distribution panel, causing the blackout—no, this was made by Bratt-sama...

– That, that...

He was babbling, given that his tongue was entangled in words while his eyes looked at the captain of the guards.

– As I've been saying, we're not terrorists!

Emilia shouted.

– Let go of us at once!

Sakura continued exclaiming that.

The guards freed both, while an expression of bewilderment floated on their faces.

– Hayato!

– Hayato-kun!

Sakura and Emilia quickly run and descend towards the battlefield, passing through the hole that was made in the tempered glass.

Then, they canceled the armament.

– Are you okay, Hayato?

– It looks like you're a little hurt.

– Only a little. It's thanks to you for bringing me the Hundred. Only the Hundred has ended this way.

Hayato canceled his armament, and turned his eyes to the two halves of his Hundred.

– However, that you could perform *Dual Act*, Hayato is awesome! Hey, what about the strategy we had planned? It was a success?

– Ah! I think it recorded everything perfectly...

While saying that, Hayato took out an elongated cylindrical machine, about two inches long from the case of his neck, and handed it to Emilia.

– Practically, Douglas told us everything under his own initiative. Not only about my Hundred, but also about the blackouts, the connection he has with Bratt and that related to the *Homunculus*.

– Did you say recording...?

Douglas murmured. He tries to get up with his knees on the ground. Looking at Douglas, Emilia speaks to him.

– If I inform my Otou-sama about this, you will be finished! You tried to kill Hayato, you tried to hurt Little Garden, I will not forgive you!

– Damn, give me that!

Douglas jumps, trying to steal the voice recorder. However, Emilia dodges it, and takes out her Hundred from her pocket, deploying it.

– HUNDRED ON!

*Arms Shroud* forms around the waist, while releasing a bluish white. Emilia changes one of the clusters into a rapier sword, picks it up, and charges it to Douglas who was again jumping.

– Surrender, realize that this is the end, Douglas! I will tell everything about you to Otou-sama, so immediately stop attacking Little Garden!

– Agh ...

Douglas, cornered, twisted his face as he collapsed on the ground. At that moment, he heard a faint voice.

– Emilia, lower your weapon.

With that voice, the atmosphere in the arena changed completely.

– Otou, sama...?

– There was something strange that was happening, and Pontiff-dono thought there was a problem with you because you were not here, so she suggested that I should secretly come down here. Along the way, she told me everything—.

Surrounded by many soldiers, King Granald appeared on the battlefield. Emilia, in view of the circumstances, removed her weapon, and canceled the armament.

– Prince Douglas.

King Granald continued his words, glaring at Douglas.

– As king of Gudenburg—no, as king of the Federation of Britannia, I must make a trial without mercy on you. I hope you are prepared.

– ...Kuh...

Douglas decided to prepare for the worst, but collapsed on the ground.

– Of course you too, Bratt!

– Hiii!

His name, when pronounced by King Granald, rushed on the concrete. With his body trembling, as if he had chills, he looks at the king and proposes to him.

– Oh, allow me to speak, your majesty! We have no relationship of any kind! Who did all this, was one person, that person is Douglas—.

– Seems like you do not know when to surrender, Prime Minister Bratt.

The door at the entrance to the audience opened, and a young

woman appeared.

Seeing this figure, Emilia said raising the volume of her voice.

– Claudia! And also Kilfelthar!

– We apologize for making you wait, Emilia-sama. We have arrived a little late, but we have brought someone with us.

At the end of Kilfelthar's words, Claudia clicked with her fingers. That made a man appear behind both of them.

– You, you are...

Douglas's face turned pale at the sight of that man.

He is the captain of the POMU that responds directly to the Privy Council.

– He moved with the orders that Prime Minister Bratt gave him and confessed that he tried to arrest us. In other words, he is also a victim. That is why he was also deceived by Bratt.

– Wa-wait a moment! That is a lie! Tremendous slander! That man and that woman are the true conspirators! I also fell into their doing!

– It's not a slander. In addition, we, the army of Gudenburg, have now captured the personnel of the electricity company, responsible for the power outage that occurred in the area surrounding the station, to the airport staff who called the technician who came from the Republic of Weimar a terrorist and the remaining individuals that caused the power supply to the arena, are in the process of investigation. All his misdeeds are being investigated and soon everything will be revealed.

– Guh...! False, that is false. I am totally innocent! Douglas did everything, that man threatened me!

– So, how on earth could the Prime Minister of the Federal Government of Britannia be threatened by Douglas? I would like if you could tell the same story and its details about it in a trial, what

do you think, Prime Minister Bratt?

– ...guh, aaaaa...!

The mentally cornered Bratt, falls from his waist to the ground, trembling.

Douglas and Bratt.

Kilfelthar screamed, with a glance at each of the men who were captured.

– We are the soldiers of Gudenburg, who are loyal to the king!  
Arrest Bratt and Douglas, and take them to prison!

## Chapter 5: Joker / Mortal Combat / Liza and Karen

– Claire-sama, apparently has been discovered in the subway of one of the apartments in the slum in the third district of Sangria, a laboratory that has been kept hidden with scientists who have restarted the *Homunculus*. It is guaranteed that this happened recently.

– I see, it's because this information comes from Gudenburg.

It was the Student Council President, in the underground of the school of the martial arts department of Little Garden, Claire Harvey, who received the report from the Vice President of the Student Council, Erika Candle. A couple of hours ago there was a report with the result of the duel from Gudenburg.

Along with the victory of Kisaragi Hayato, the information regarding the *Homunculus* was transmitted.

Dr. Charlotte analyzed the information obtained by the intelligence unit of Little Garden, and it is understood that the third Prince of the Wenz Kingdom, Douglas Edward Wenz, was the one who released the *Homunculus* in the city of Sangria.

The information obtained by the Gudenburg side was very large, coming from the three of them.

*Homunculus* is a decisive weapon to fight against Little Garden, created by Vitaly Tynyanov, her [Trump Card] Joker. Its shape is similar to that of a human being, but inside, it is very close to that of a Savage.

And now, they had the location where the scientists who had unleashed Joker in the city of Sangria were.

– Is it possible to stop the *Homunculus*?

– No, [Joker is completely autonomous, there is nothing that can be done] was informed to me.

That scientist says that Joker awoke in response to the Hundred of the Slayers, when Wenz's troops entered to investigate inside the bases left by Vitaly. Then, they gave him the Hundred and went crazy.

He released a strong *Sense Energy* from his body to open a large hole in the sky of the cave where the laboratory was located, so he ran out of strength, and collapsed.

Then Douglas assured him, woke him up at the base he had already prepared, and in return for giving him Variable Stone, he would take revenge on Little Garden for murdering Vitaly, his creator.

Joker aligned with that proposal.

– That means that it's Joker who's hunting the Slayers and attacking Little Garden at the same time, and he's giving his thanks to those who revived him and fed him with Hundred?

– No, I don't think that is something like that.

Erika replied.

– There is a Slayer that survived when it was attacked by Joker, during that action, Joker said [My purpose is the origin of the power of Little Garden]. Claire-sama, the origin of power, is it some kind of Variable Stone, which gives *energy* to Little Garden?

It's reasonable that Erika is thinking that. The power of the Joker and the origin of his *Sense Energy* are Variable Stone. It's really clear that they have a resemblance, but she does not know anything about Liza. It should be the same for Douglas.

But what about Joker? He has heard about Liza from Vitaly, maybe he can know after all.

(Anyway, this has become in something very problematic)



Now he is hunting Slayers, although he is in a phase of stealing Hundreds and thereby accumulate more power, so that the day will come when he will come to Little Garden.

(Anyway, we have to deal with that before it gets much more power)

Claire concluded with that in her mind.

The President of the Student Council receives an < < Emergency Alert > > *Emergency Call*, and the figure of Chris Steinbelt is shown on a giant floating monitor located on the wall, and is seated at the position of < < Strategic Responsible Analyst > > *Main Analyst*, in the < < Council Room for Strategies > > *Briefing Room*.

[Claire-sama, Joker has appeared!]

– Tell me its position!

[It's in a building in the center of Sangria. One person is a civilian and the other is a Slayer from Liberia, who are wounded]

The figure of Chris that was projected on the monitor, changed completely to the one on the map. It was close to the same point of the day before yesterday and yesterday, it was close to where Joker has acted regularly.

[The civilian who is injured corresponds to Umino Aoi. Yesterday, together with Karen-san, they were attacked by Joker]

– Wait a minute, why is that girl there in Sangria!

[Yesterday, while they escaped from Joker, she lost her PDA, and the information says that she would go to pick it up, and that it was authorized by Fritz-san and Latia-san, who were patrolling the inspection area. As Joker only targets Slayers, apparently there would be no problem in which civilians could pass]

– There was certainly a notice from the Student Council in which, the general public was called to avoid making these trips, but it did she really needed to do it in this way? Well, how is her condition?

[The city of Sangria is revolted and the appropriate information has not arrived yet. I am worried about it, but...]

– We must wait for everything to return to normal.

[I think so. That has been the report from the headquarters]

[In that case, I'll have to interrupt you]

Suddenly, Claire was surprised by the voice that interrupted the communication.

– Onii-sama!?

The image that has changed and that is shown on the floating monitor corresponds to that of Claire's older brother, Judal Harvey, president of the Warslan Company.

[It should not be surprising, because this emergency communication is not private. All authorized people involved can listen to everyone, as well as interrupt a communication. The subject as of now has to do with Little Garden]

– And you want me to thank you for that.

Just now, she said something with total sarcasm.

Since what really matters is Liza—.

That is at least what she thought in her mind.

[... now, going back to the subject in question. I understand that the enemy is an *Homunculus*, left behind by Vitaly. It may be that now Vitaly is in a higher danger state than when she started attacking with the < <Artificial Models> > *Replicant*. There will be minor damages, but we will stop progress, in one way or another]

– “Minor damages”, how can you be saying something like that, Onii-sama!

[What I have said does not mean that I am ready to give my own life. It would not be strange if a city disappeared, in the event that

the fight between the Slayer and the *Homunculus* occurred in an inhabited place. What I want to say is that it will not hesitate at all to do harm. But, no matter how much damage is done, it is much better than leaving a city made nothing using missiles and nuclear mines to stop the dangerous *Homunculus*. Well, no matter what, I will convince the United Nations that all responsibility falls on the anti-Slayer organization, so not everything is lost]

– That proposal is really appreciated.

It will sound sarcastically, but in fact, it is not sarcastic at all. The truth is that I do not want not a single person injured, and as far as possible, not even a single building, but I also know that this is idealism. This will really be a tough battle.

[Claire-sama, Judal-sama, if you allow me to speak, I would like to add a few words from me]

Opening his mouth, Chris joined the conversation in which they were both.

[What I thought while listening to the conversation that you were holding now is, how about using the third district of the city of Sangria?]

[Third district...? Is not that where the scientist who rebooted the Joker was?]

[That place is a slum, there will hardly be anyone there, due to the purification strategy that was carried out a year ago in the city of Sangria, there lived only vagabonds and the mafia in that sector. Since the redevelopment has not yet taken place there, I think it's fine if some building is destroyed]

There is a large number of Slayers and Liberian soldiers who have been dispatched as bait. Attracting the Joker, having as final destination the third district, to then be captured by the members of the special team that has been waiting there, that was the plan devised by Chris to lock up Joker.

[Truly, the *Main Analyst*, is a great strategist]

\*PACHI\* \*PACHI\*, made their hands, while applauding and saying those words in admiration.

Claire has no objection to Chris's strategy.

– All right, let's go with that plan. If the time comes when the enemy becomes very powerful, I too will have to enter the battle. Can I request if it is possible that Erika is left in charge at that moment?

[No, it would be best if Erika were also to fight]

There was a person who interrupted the communication. It was Charlotte Dimandius.

– Regarding my ability, is there anything I can do against Joker, the enemy?

Asks Erika to Charlotte that is shown on the floating monitor.

[I heard some information about Joker from the scientists who were captured. In order to defeat him, it is possible that your presence is indispensable. Therefore, I will take control of this strategy in conjunction with Chris. Is it okay with you, Claire?]

– Yes, no problem. Do you agree, Chris?

[Yes of course]

[Ok, then, could you leave me in charge of the strategy from now on? Liddy will also need to appear on the battlefield. Call me as soon as you get there]

\*\*\*

Will Umino Aoi be safe?

Karen and Rebecca are still waiting in the cafeteria for information on whether Aoi is safe. Three people were there, they were Krovahn, Nesat and Nakri, who were in their Variable Suit.

– Hey you!

Nakri realized the existence of Karen that was there, opened her eyes completely and leaped closer.

– Wh-what is going on, Nakri-san?

Karen, who was frightened by the level of intensity, unconsciously stepped back.

– Yesterday, you were flying through the skies and you did it until you returned to Little Garden, right? Then, it's possible to go to Sangria!

– Huh...?

She heard the conversation that was held in the classroom this morning. Nakri continues speaking with a certain enthusiasm.

– With what you had to fight yesterday, it was against the creation of our boss Vitaly, *Homunculus*. But he isn't ordinary. Before we can do more damage, we have to do something about it. So, please, take us to Sangria!

– But, if you talk to the president...

– That's impossible.

The boy next to him answered. He heard from Charlotte that he was Nakri's cousin, and that he was in the next class. His name is Krovan Olfred. The surname Olfred, it is said that they did not have surnames, but that they were given by Charlotte.

– I asked the president if we could go, but our *energy* is still not stable, and she didn't give us any hope, since she rejected us because the formation for this operation is made up of the Selections. With the doctor it's the same. But he is immeasurably powerful. Without a Variant, they will be easily killed. It will be impossible if we aren't there!

No but...

If Dr. Charlotte says it's useless, it's because it's probably useless.

So having thought of saying it would be impossible,

—— Let's go.

(Eh...?)

The voice of a girl rumbles in her head.

—— Being here, I will protect you and everyone.

Again, the voice sounded inside her head.

It was Liza's voice.

– I'm not telling you to fight. All you have to do is to take us. We will take full responsibility. We beg you!

– Keep in mind that your friend is involved in this incident! Don't you think you should go and rescue her!?

Continuing what Krovahn said, Nakri spoke.

– ... Karen...

Rebecca stares at her, as if saying what she is going to do.

(If Liza says I should go, then it's because I have to go)

Also, I have to get to Aoi as quickly as possible.

Because she is an important friend.

I have to save her.

– I understood, let's go!

– For real!?

Nakri, who responded energetically when she heard Karen's response, looks happily at Krovahn.

– ..Karen, will you really go?

– That’s right, leave Aoi-chan to Karen. I will absolutely bring her back home safely.

Karen declared, to Rebecca’s concern.

– Okay then. You are strong. If it’s Karen, then everything will be fine.

– Yes

– Please come back safely.

With that said, Rebecca extends her little finger.

– It is a promise.

The act of linking the little fingers.

– Yes

Karen also extended her little finger and crossed it with Rebecca’s little finger.

– Now, we’re leaving!

\*\*\*

– I really hope that Aoi-chan is fine, but...

Fritz and Latia ran through the streets of Sangria. Of course, this was not a date. It was part of their duty as members of Selections. It is for that reason that the two were in their Variable Suit.

– It’s your fault that she has been involved in this type of incident. I wish I’d not let her go there....

– I really thought about it. That’s why I’m here looking for Aoi-chan.

Fritz and Latia went to the coastal side of the buildings of the third district, in the western part of the city, where the battlefield against the Joker would take place, along with other Slayers and transport helicopters.

This is where the point where the communication stopped is marked.

Right now, they are halfway from that point. When suddenly, the Vital Rings of both emit a sound.

[Chris Steinbelt speaking here from the *Briefing Room*]

– Chris, is something wrong?

Fritz asks stopping his step.

[The status of Umino Aoi has been confirmed. She fell off the stairs and hit her head, there was loss of consciousness, but there is no danger to her life. It has been reported that the army of Liberia has it under its protection]

– I see...

When he found out she was fine, Fritz gently touched his chest.

– Since Umino Aoi is safe, what should we do?

Asked Latia.

[Yes, slowly return to the third district, please]

Chris answered, after a brief pause.

– In other words, we will be the bait to attract the Joker.

[Thank you very much for your cooperation. But in case a combat situation is triggered—]

– .. Wait, a moment...

Out of nowhere, she felt a chill run through her back muscles, and Latia's face went rigid.

– Fritz, look for a presence in the surroundings.

Ordering him, Fritz decides to do it.



– ...But what is this...?

He feels a very unpleasant *energy*.

There was also something like blood thirst mixed in that.

– Maybe that's the Joker.

Latia murmured in a low voice, and continued her words.

– He has us in his sight.

[It cannot be, it is not possible that he already...]

Even Chris was upset.

If the combat were to develop here, then the strategy that has been set up, all this will be in vain.

[Most of the residents around that area have been evacuated to the shelters, so it is possible that these buildings are damaged. There are no traps, so please move quickly to the third district. Although it is impossible to know if we will succeed, we pray that you have managed to capture Joker's attention]

– Understood.

Responding, Fritz looked at Latia's face. Latia nods silently.

– Then, GO!

Therefore, with Fritz's signal, both begin to run towards the third district.

But—.

They could not even run for five seconds when they had to stop.

A boy with a black hoodie appeared in front of them.

– Bu-, but what the hell—.

– I just jumped from the roof of the building that is there.

Fritz and Latia looked up at the buildings that were on either side, according to what the boy said. On both sides, the buildings, the buildings were fifteen stories.

– Haha...

Unexpectedly, a dry laugh escaped from Fritz's mouth.

They had heard that he could deploy Hundred without any restrictions, and that his physical ability went beyond that of a super human—.

– Onee-san, you're a Slayer from Liberia and Little Garden, aren't you? I'd like to ask you something but, there isn't anyone around here, right? So, what the hell are you up to?

Smiling with a grin that floated on his face, the boy approached.

– Is it that maybe you intend to take me to where it is full of Slayers, to try to surround me with all of them and defeat me? Haha, but even so, that will be useless—.

The boy creates something similar to a blade in his hand without using a Hundred. Both when seeing it, they were convinced of that.

This is Joker.

Latia quickly took the Hundred from her chest and screamed.

– Hundred On!

Fritz began at the same time to deploy his armament.

Hundred of the Martial Arts type, < < Beast King, God of Military Arts > > *Strike Beast*, and Hundred of the Long Shot type, < < Impenetrable Fortress > > *Stronghold*.

Continuing, the Hundred of both were deployed.

– Hee ... So you're determined? If you give me your Hundred, I'll not take your lives. Since it really is useless for you to do something with the power you have.

– What are you saying, it's you who has tried to anticipate the facts!

Moving first, to take the victory, Latia kicks on the ground, focusing *energy* in her fist, to strike with her Knuckle to Joker.

-!—.

As a result, it hits nothing, failing.

– Too bad, the level is very different from that of an ordinary Slayer like you.

That voice emerged from behind Latia,

– Kuh!

Latia managed to stop the blow of the blade that came from top to bottom with the armor of her arm.

With that, Joker turned his body, releasing a spinning kick.

– Guah!

Latia's body was sent flying and hit a concrete wall that was in a nearby building — opening a big hole, coming out the other side.

– Even though her armament has been cancelled, it doesn't seem that she has reached the point of being dead. Now you come, Onii-san—

– ... tsu, bastard!

It is no longer a situation that may matter to him, even if it is about the whole town. Considering that he is still alive, he decides to take the enemy of Latia, Fritz lends his gaze to Joker, and makes use of his rifle, Shooting Star, in his right hand, firing.

But, Joker deploys a barrier just in front of his body— and with it, the *energy* shots that were released, are dispersed and disappear just before touching the body.

– Damn, to be able to perform such a trick without needing a Hundred!

– I didn't tell you, I'm not an ordinary human being. That is why, I can do something **like this**.

The boy creates two spheres of light, one on each side of his body, and shoots them at Fritz.

– Kuh!

Fritz contains the attack of the light spheres with a barrier. But, right there, Joker creates a tremendous sword in his hand, and attacks it.

– Die!

Fritz deploys a barrier, but it is in vain, since with the pressure of the sword he was sent flying, and hits against the wall of the building, just like Latia. The great impact that he receives in his back, causes that he collapses in the ground, and his armament ends up being cancelled.

– Hahaha, despite looking quite weak, you have a lot of courage. But, the Hundred of Onii-san and Onee-san, look dedicated, therefore delicious, I'm anxious for them. I will take them immediately.

Joker advances with his feet until he reaches Fritz, who is knocked down on the ground. But he noticed that two chakram were approaching, and that they were going in the direction of attacking his back. When he looked back, one of them, was about to touch his body.

– Guh!

One of the chakram, amputated Joker's right arm.

The other chakram was also after him, but he dodged it with a jump.

– Hee, I didn't think it was possible for one of my arms to be cut

off. Who the hell dares to do such an action?

– It will not be just your arms! I will also split your body in half!

Hearing the voice as his consciousness fades, Fritz is convinced.

(Hehe, to think that they would be the ones to arrive...)

They are the three people of artificial Variant made by Vitaly.

If they have returned to a state close to the normal in which they were before, then they will be able to fight against Joker. This would make it possible to gain time until the reinforcements arrive.

– Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

While descending by a jump from the top of the building, Krovahn cut with his < <Double Rebel Leaf> > *Orthos Liberio* to Joker.

Nesat, who also jumped from the same building as Krovahn, also attacked Joker, copying the weapon possessed by Krovahn.

\*\*\*

When supplicated by Krovahn, Karen deployed her Hundred, and created a wing type armor with a *thruster*, and that Nesat had duplicated, thus taking Nakri and Krovahn, to cross the ocean and reach the city of Sangria.

Once she reached the city of Sangria, she parted ways from the three people with artificial Variant. They went in search of Joker—

In order to ensure that Aoi was well, Karen began to move around the city, checking until the very last building.

(How strange, there isn't a single person...)

Karen kept running, although she is confused, since the state of the city is really different than it was yesterday.

What is happening on the streets of this city?

Beat, beat!

– ... huh?

When she was almost on the verge of arriving at the building mentioned above, incidentally, her PDA began to sound.

It was the alarm of an emergency call.

[Kisaragi Karen! Why are you in Sangria!?!]

When she stopped walking, and took the PDA out of her pocket, a screaming voice spoke. The voice belonged to Charlotte Dimandius.

– Um, I think it was expected to be found ... sorry...

Karen apologized frankly.

[That's obvious. Now why have you traveled without authorization? Is it because you were worried about Aoi's integrity?]

– Well, there's that too but, to be honest, that...

[What is it, you can say it]

Karen decided to answer sincerely, because she was intrigued by the strange situation that was happening in the city.

– To be honest, I got here because Nakri and the others told me if I could bring them here.

[So, that means that those three have also gone to Sangria...]

She heard how the mouth opened from the other side of the call to take a big breath.

[Anyway, you'll soon return to Little Garden. Now we are preparing to fight against Joker. I think you could understand it when you see the situation in the city, isn't it? It is dangerous to stay there]

– But Aoi-chan...

[Umino Aoi is already safe thanks to the Liberian army. So you can feel relieved]

– Really?

[Well, yeah it's true. So you can go back. Understood?]

– Yes I understand!

Upon learning that Aoi was well, Karen lets out a long breath of relief as the call ended. She feels like seeing Aoi right now, but she already has a commitment to Charlotte.

Deciding that she must return to Little Garden, Karen takes the Hundred with her hand.

—— Wait a moment.

A voice sounds inside his head.

—— I am sorry.

—— You will not be able to return for now.

Her consciousness gradually disappears...

Until at that very moment, her consciousness was completely broken.

Those eyes, emitted a radiant golden color.

\*\*\*

Joker's movements were extremely fast. Not only he was attacked by Krovahn and Nesat with their double swords, but also by Nakri who was trying to cut him with her < <Double Victory Circular Sword> > *Dio Varga*, considering that at first they had cut off his arm, they have not been able to hit an attack once.

Despite being outnumbered, Krovahn and the others were being pressured.

– ... Kuh, damn!

Krovahn's body is pushed about five meters back, after receiving one of the spheres of light created by Joker with his body. Next, Nakri received a revolving kick. Although she did not fall to the ground, unlike the other two, it put up resistance with her sword in a clash of swords by ten seconds, until the body of Nesat also left flying backwards.

– I get it! Finally I remembered.

Joker, who has separated from the three individuals with artificial Variant, said as soon as he could, stared at them and shouted loudly.

– I thought I had seen you three before somewhere, and isn't that perhaps you are the trio of artificial Variant, the group that were close to Vitaly? Why are you involved in this situation? Or is it possible that you betrayed Vitaly and liked Little Garden?

– Shut up, there's no need for us to give you any explanation!

Krovahn shouted as he was getting up.

Upon hearing that response, Joker began to laugh with \*Hahaha\*.

– Apparently I hit the mark. So Vitaly was murdered by Little Garden, or am I wrong? And despite now you finally got your freedom, don't tell me you'll be a dog again. What the hell are you thinking? I really can't understand it at all. Not that your goal from the beginning was to take revenge on the Slayers?

– Shut up, silence!

Nakri shouted.

As she got up from the floor, she continued talking.

– There are several Slayers who are friendly. Not all Slayers are bad. We learned that there in Little Garden!

– Yeah. That's why we fight for Little Garden! We will defeat you! Because that is our freedom!



Nesat declared while preparing her Twin Sword.

– Aha, hahahahaha!

Joker received the emotions of the three people, and laughed.

– But what is that. It isn't that you have changed your boss for something of conciliation. I think that is really very human. I feel jealous.

At the same time as when he finished his words.

The cross section that he had in his amputated right arm began to shine and then, his arm recovered the original shape that he had in an instant.

– But, what's happening?

Looking at that, Krovahn remained with his look surprised.

Nakri and Nesat are the same.

– The arm that was cut is no longer...

Nesat, muttering that, could not see the part of the arm that was already detached on the floor.

– My body is like a concentration of *energy*. That is why, I can do a regeneration of this type. Did you think I was a super human? To begin with, I'm not even a human!

Creating a Twin Sword similar to the one Krovahn has in his hand, Joker kicks the ground.

He does it by pointing towards Krovahn.

– Unlike you who are good for nothing, I'm a *Homunculus*, although my life is equal to that of a human being, I also have to eat. As for that, I feel very envious. But, there's nothing I can do against that. That's why I fight, because the power source is the Hundred, there's no alternative but to obtain the Variable Stone!

– „,, kkuh!

His attacks are much more intense than before. Even using all their strength, they cannot do more than stop his attacks.

– Krovahn!

Joker, who interrupted the attack of Nesat who came from the side to help Krovahn who had been pushed, threw his sword to the sky and reduced it to particles.

– What a nuisance!

Now he created a sphere of light in his right hand and threw it to Nesat.

– Kyaa!

The sphere of light hits the body of Nesat squarely. Due to the impact, it falls to the ground.

– Damn, nee-chan!

– This is not the time to be looking the other way!

Producing a sword again in his hand, Joker attacks Krovahn.

– For me to be able to obtain true freedom, I had no alternative but to attack Little Garden with the power obtained from the collection of Hundred, and thus achieve the source of power that exists there. If he was able to obtain the source of that power, then, he could obtain eternal life, practically. Or even, get enough power to be able to destroy the world.

Even if you do not believe it, it is possible to destroy the world.

– What the hell, why are you going to do it?

Krovahn's eyes gleamed with a golden hue. It was no longer possible to face Joker, his opponent, in normal conditions. All that remained was to release the power of Variant.

– There's no reason why. I just hate this world that created me. Should there be some kind of justification required to do that?

– ... Kuh!

He could not understand what Joker was saying.

It was not born naturally, but is more, it was dismissed as a failed experiment. You cannot even live like a human being. His hatred for the world was inevitable.

– The guys that woke you up a second time, do you know them?

– I didn't know them at all. I didn't speak to them, they only ordered me in exchange for receiving Variable Stone. That's why I pretended to listen to the things they told me. Their orders were to attack Little Garden, and they aligned almost perfectly with my purpose.

– In short, you used the people who woke you up!

– It was balanced for both of our sides. Once I destroyed Little Garden, surely they would come to destroy me since I would stand in their way. That's why I think they didn't give me Variable Stone, and they told me that I should win them on my own. But, if I get Liza Harvey, who is the source of power for Little Garden, how much power I could get, no matter how hard I think, it's impossible to know! If even now I am very strong, maybe how powerful I would become!

– ...Liza Harvey?

– Apparently you don't know anything about Liza Harvey! Is it perhaps that you haven't been told yet!?

– —Guah!

After releasing the power of the Variant, there was a collision from Twin Sword to Twin Sword, and both were on par in force, stopping the advance of one another, impacting each other, but the first began to show signs of damage, this was because Joker's eyes glowed golden like Krovahn's eyes.

Joker released a resplendent golden color.

The blow of Joker has hit Krovahn's right shoulder.

– I'm just like you, I haven't really shown what I'm capable of!

– Krovahn!

Nakri threw her *Dio Varga* against Joker, who raised the Twin Sword, looking for a final blow to Krovahn by a thrust, while he was pressing his right shoulder, being about to fall to the ground.

Joker takes a turn with his body, and with his Twin Sword diverts the trajectory of the two Chakram.

So when the weapons go back to Nakri's hands,

– While you're at it, why don't you get this!

Joker launches his Twin Sword in the direction of Nakri who is about to catch *Dio Varga*. If your hands are occupied, then there will be no other option but to receive the blow.

– I won't allow it!

A voice echoed in that place.

At that same moment, a beam of light hit Joker's head.

– ...And who are you?

It seems that the damage was not substantial.

Joker raises his face in the direction of the sky, and looks at the girl with blue eyes and blond hair that comes descending.

– Claire Harvey, president of the Little Garden Student Council.

Claire keeps her eyes on Fritz and Latia as she separates from them.

– How dare you hurt my precious **companions**!

She is currently in full body armor.

Her whole body is covered with a thick armor, and with weapons in each hand.

In addition, six floating batteries are found around her body.

– And I am Liddy Steinberg, Vice President of the Little Garden Student Council!

The voice that was heard next was of the girl that on her back is the < <External Armor> > *Outer*.

Liddy injects energy to the *thruster* that is attached to the *Air Ride* and attacks by directing the tip of her *Midgard Schrange* towards Joker, while accelerating.

Her speed is tremendous and it seems impossible for Joker to really evade her.

– Uoooooooooooo!!

*Midgard Schrange* of Liddy impaled Joker's body.

– I'm sorry, but you have not left me another alternative.

If her rival had been an ordinary person, in these moments it should be dead.

But—.

– By doing that, did you want to kill me?

With a dark laugh, Joker extended both hands. What appeared inside his hands was a sharp pointed weapon, like an ice pick.

– Sorry, but I'll not die with something like that!

Joker then uses the ice picks to try to penetrate Liddy's body both on the left and on the right.

– Kuh...

Liddy quickly released her hands from the hilt, soared with her *thruster* and flew into the sky.

– You forgot something!

Joker then removed the spear that was embedded in his abdomen with both hands, and threw it towards Liddy. This was also considerably fast.

– Kuh!

Liddy quickly deploys a barrier, but is pushed by the impulse, flying off, rushing to the ground. A few seconds later, *Midgard Schrange* falls across the floor, next to Liddy.

– Hm, how unfortunate. At least I thought I could achieve the cancellation of the armament.

It is Joker who murmurs in a guilty manner, but his attitude was as composed as ever.

The hole in his abdomen began to regenerate. But, he noticed that a pink chain wrapped around his body, showing impatience.

– ...What is this? Guh, uh...!

The chain violently imprisons Joker's body.

It was a girl with glasses peeking out of the window on the second floor of the nearby building-The Vice President of the Little Garden Student Council, Erika Candle.

She jumped from the second floor of the building with the chain in her hand.

– The engineers who have revived you are already under the shelter of Little Garden. We already knew about your regeneration ability. Therefore, the attack that Liddy made a few moments ago, of course we would understand—In other words, it was a decoy to restrict your body in this way. And—

Erika looks at Claire.

Claire reduces the six floating batteries she used as a particle *thruster*—and created Buster Cannon, and aimed at Joker.

– If I shoot with this weapon to your core, it will be your end.

Claire has already reached to fill the power of the Canon Buster by 60%.

70%, 80%, 90% -.

– Stop, stop! If you shoot with that, part of the city will be destroyed...

Certainly this will happen.

I did not want to get to do something like this.

But—.

– You want us to leave you be, that really is impossible to do. Many lives were taken.

While there are people alive, the village can be rebuilt as many times as necessary. Considering the hard battles against the Savage, humanity now knows about it.

They have the power to not surrender.

– What is more, even if I did not shoot, I'm not the only one who is pointing at you. Why do not you take a look around you?

– ... Huh...?

By saying that, Joker begins to look at what surrounds him. It was then that he realized that he noticed a strong energy located about 500 meters away, and even up to 1 kilometer away. Beside the two people who were defeated first, there was a girl who was thinner and smaller than Claire, was wearing her Variable Suit and was holding a gun.

– I've put together the best Slayers of the long-range type and the dragon type. Even if I cannot make you disappear, they will put you

to an end.

100%.

The *energy* of *Buster Cannon* is complete.

Claire puts force on the finger and presses the trigger.

– This is the end!

– Never, I...! I will not be defeated with something like  
thiiiiiiiiiiiis!

As Joker screams like that, his body begins to expand, inflating.

– What on earth is happening?

Due to the surprise, Claire spontaneously delays the shot of *Buster Cannon*.

All those who were looking at Joker, were the same, the voice that came from their faces showed the surprise that generated that.

– ... k, kuh...!

Erika concentrates more *energy* in < < Absolute Destiny Chains > > *Everlasting*, in order to contain the expansion.

However, it is not capable of resisting the power of it.

The pink chain breaks into very small pieces, and then disappear into particles.

– Claire-sama! Shoot fast please!

– I know ... It has been hard to gather all this energy. There is no other alternative but to try to do it!

Claire again places the mouth of her *Buster Cannon* against Joker and pulls the trigger.

One hundred percent explosion at maximum power.



Along with a dazzling light, an immense mass of energy hits Joker fiercely, making it spin like a whirlpool.

– ...We did it?

Following the violent explosion, both trash and dust, along with a cloud of the latter, rose on the ground.

Due to *Buster Cannon*, many buildings collapsed. This has made possible that the ocean, which until recently was not visible, could be seen.

However, within the sea, there was a certain existence, something that until now, had never existed there.

– But what is that...?

Stunned, Claire murmured.

Its height was very large, about 20 meters, was a <Armored Class> *Trenta*, a giant Savage, which was reflected in their eyes.

– I don't believe it, he was a Savage...

It was Nakri who said that with a trembling voice.

– Why – why do people become Savage...!?

Krovahn added, muttering.

– Krovahn, he isn't a human being. He is a *Homunculus*...

– Yes, I thought it could be that but...

Krovahn, who received the tsukkomi from Nakri, his cheeks stiffened as he looked up.

– Bomb all at once to the Savage!

At the same time that Erika communicated that through the wireless ring, *energy shots* were released instantaneously from eight different locations. But, all that was repelled by the Savage's steel breastplate.

– Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahh!

The rumble of the weapons caused the ground and surrounding buildings to tremble.

***– I will not let you, I will not allow it! To all of you, this world will be your grave!***

The head of the Savage opened and from there the one of Joker appeared.

– An offensive will come, everyone prepare your defenses! Erika, Liddy, apart from you, who are behind me—the Slayers who are fallen, protect them from that side. After protecting yourselves from the bombardment, and when you are under shelter, we will prepare the next strategy. Agreed!?

While instructing not only Liddy, Erika, and Krovahn, who are at her side, but also to the surrounding Slayers, Claire reduces her *Buster Cannon* into particles— returning them to the six floating batteries, creating a shield with them.

– I will help too.

As Nesat said, she copied Claire’s shield and deployed it in front of her.

It is then that, the Savage Joker attacked with a fierce bombardment.

– Claire-sama, what will we do after this?

Erika asks Claire after taking refuge from the bombardment by placing herself under the shield.

– If we have any luck, if that Savage is very similar to a common Savage, it will be necessary to expose its core. If we can destroy it, then we can stop its functions.

– If that’s so, let me try.

As soon as the first bombing ended, Liddy flew very high using

the *thruster* of her *Air Ride*, and then went to counterattack with her *Midgard Schrange* aiming at the core of Joker, who had become a Savage.

– What do you think of this!?

The tip of *Midgard Schrange* touched what was the existence of a protection on the core, <Defensive Barrier> *Shelter*.

But, she did not feel disturbed.

Even so—.

– Uooooooooooooooooo!

When Liddy concentrated her energy, *Midgard Schrange* began to rotate like a drill.

A fissure appeared in the <Defensive Barrier> *Shelter*.

– ***I will not let you!***

Shouting, the Savage Joker raised his head and tried to shake off Liddy.

– ... Agh!

Liddy, who has not fallen thanks to her *thruster*, unleashes an attack by launching all the missiles through the missiles that *Air Ride* has.

An explosion manifests from the center of the Savage.

It was in the middle of that, that Krovahn and Nesat began to move.

– Thanks to the spear of nee-chan, there is an opening in the shell. In that case, we may stop it. Come on, nee-chan!

– Sure!

Krovahn kicked the ground, jumping very high, then hit from the top to the bottom with his *Orthos Liberio*.

Nesat, who performed *Trace* on Krovahn's weapon, also attacked using the same Twin Sword against Joker that became Savage.

However, when the two tried to hit by moving down the blades of the weapons, from the left and from the right, they were stopped by Joker's scissors.

– Crap!

– ... Kuh!

Krovahn was hit and thrown to the ground, and Nesat was sent flying to a nearby building.

– If so, then I!

– Wait, now the visual field has become clear...!

The pupil of the eye shone a golden color.

Nakri released the power of her Variant over her *Dio Varga*, making it four times larger than normal.

– It can't be helped, the methods do not matter! *Petals*!

Claire had already returned to transform her shield into the six floating batteries. From there, from each respectively, two small floating weapons— *petals* emerged.

A total of eighteen floating batteries, small and large, fired at the Joker turned into Savage.

The goal is to make him lose focus.

Liddy also releases rays from the Air Ride in order to support that plan.

Thanks to this, Nakri manages to approach the Savage. She was able to launch an attack.

– Let's see what you think of this!

There were no scissors attacking Nakri, who had jumped against

the *shelter*.

All that remained was to strike with *Dio Varga* his *shelter*.

Or that's what she thought—.

In front of her eyes, a head opened.

(Is that a bombardment...?)

It will be a direct hit if it continues like this.

(It is dangerous!)

Death.

Those were the letters that went through her mind.

And right after that.

– Huh...?

In front of the head of the Savage, the figure of a girl with black hair carrying a giant sword moving downward entered her sight.

Thanks to her, artillery shots were never released.

– Why, are you here...

Unable to attack the *shelter*, Nakri who landed doing a roll, muttered at the same time she looked at the girl who had helped her.

—Kisaragi Karen.

It was the same girl, the middle school classmate from Little Garden.

But, it looked different than usual. Her eyes were painted in a golden color, whose color of *energy* was the same that emanated throughout her body.

Due to the big slash he received from Karen's sword, Joker, who

had transformed into a Savage, was knocked to the ground.

Karen instantly pointed the edge of her sword to the *shelter*, and tried to chase him.

But, the attack was dodged by a matter of millimeters.

Joker had rushed backward with his six legs.

– ***You are, the girl, of yesterday, is not it? But what, is that power...?***

A few moments ago, he had suffered considerable damage to his *shelter* from Karen's attack. It was evident that Joker was confused.

– ... ***kuh!***

Joker moves from top to bottom the scissors of his right arm against Karen. But far from stopping the blow, it easily makes it bounce holding the sword with one hand. Then, kicks the ground and jumps very high.

– ***What!?***

Karen hits the *shelter* with her sword. This caused that the shell was destroyed by that blow, and the tip of the sword penetrated the core.

– ***Oooooooooooooooooooooo!!***

Immense particles disappear.

From the body of Savage that releases an intense roar, with a \*PLOP\*, the core falls.

– We won, right...?

Krovahn murmurs, seeing a sphere with a radius of approximately two meters and from which drips a liquid of a fluorescent color from its orifice.

The giant body does not exist anymore.

– According to what I see, that seems to be...

Claire mumbles, and talks to Karen who is standing in front of the core.

– Kisaragi Karen, I must thank you for saving us. But, why are you here? Also, that sword...

– Oh? What, where...?

At Claire's question, Karen is surprised and turns around.

– Uhm, this, that ... somehow, suddenly there was a voice that echoed in my head, and when I realized, I was here ... ah, a sword!? Karen, what have you been doing...?

Karen quickly reduces the sword to particles. The color of their pupils returns to the color black. At that moment, it was Erika who realized the tragedy that was rising behind Karen's back.

– Kisaragi Karen, look behind you!

– ... Eh?

Turning around again, she saw a pair of hands that emerge from the cleft of the core.

What came out from inside there was a naked Joker.

– ***Your power! Give it to me!***

Joker extends both arms, putting his weight on Karen's body. Karen is then pushed and falls to the ground.

– ***Give it to me, your power!***

Joker contains Karen's body and begins to strangle the neck with both hands.

– Agh, ah...

In an instant, her conscience is fading away.

Among the things that Joker could do, it turns out that he begins to bring his face with hers.

(Do not tell me, this is ...)

Are my lips going to be stolen?

Surely his intention is to want to suck the power.

(A kiss like that, I absolutely detest it ... Because, Karen's first kiss is—)

It is her older brother, the figure of Kisaragi Hayato, the one that crosses her mind.

Then, the voice resounded.

—— Kisaragi Karen, summon me.

(Eh...?)

—— You know me as Card.

(Call, the Card ...)

Karen extends her hand and touches the letter that was on her waist and begs to it

(Card-san, I beg you, please save me somehow...!!)

Then the card glows brightly and shakes Joker's body.

– Cough, cough, this is...

Karen stopped and moved her vision to the card she had.

That mark was the logo of the Little Garden's school.

—— Karen, throw the card.

– Y-yes!

Doing what the voice said, Karen launched the card. Then the



card illuminated intensely and its figure changed to that of a human appearance.

– What is that...?

Krovahn murmured and of course Nesat, as well as Nakri, were stunned.

– ... Are you a human being?

Seeing that figure in front of their eyes, that appearance from behind, one could say that it was that of a human being.

– It's been a while since we met last time.

Only the back could be seen from that golden hair that was wiggling.

Even with that, Karen could understand.

(Without doubt, it is “that person” ...)

That girl who appeared in front of her on the day of the Festival, and who then spoke to her in her head.

Exactly like that time, an object that looked like thorny ivy was tangled in her body. As well as the crown of blue thorns on her head and blue roses on her neck.

– Liza!

Screaming, Claire continued.

– You, why are you here...?



– Let's leave the conversation for another time, first we have to deal with that.

– ***You, you are, what is ... that power, what the hell...!***

As he got up, Joker said in a trembling voice.

That voice is violently shaken.

– Is it that you still do not understand it? The meaning of your existence, the reason why you were created— and now, the goal you're aiming at ... That's because, it was all me.

***– In other words, you, you are the goddess of Little Garden, Liza Harvey! You are what I am looking for, the source of power!***

Joker's eyes flashed fervently.

– Although I must say, in the end, I am nothing but a part of all that. Even so—.

The girl disappeared.

...without realizing, he appeared in front of the boy—.

– I would say that this trick is pretty easy to do.

– ...!?

Liza's outstretched arms were as if they were quite normal, buried in his abdomen. Seeing that, Joker's eyes were wide open. And it is because the source of his power was also being held in his hands.

– I thought that maybe you would be accumulating more power, but is this what you have achieved? The efficiency of the energy consumption is quite bad ... No. It is thanks to the brave Slayers that are in this place that your power has been reduced so much up to this level. Thanks to that, it's enough for me to defeat you.

Liza smiled sweetly.

***– ...bastard, what do you intend...***

– It's already decided. I will make you disappear from this world. That's what I should do. That is the reason why I am here.

***– St-op....! That is very abrupt—***

Without finishing listening to what he had to say until the end, Liza extracted the sphere of light from Joker's chest. Then, the light disappeared from his eyes...

Like a puppet with the strings cut, it fell to the ground suddenly.

Then his body became particles and disappeared while shining brightly.

With this, Joker has been completely eradicated from this world.

It will no longer be revived.

– Kisaragi Karen...

– Ah, yes!

Karen, who was called out by Liza, and trying to correct herself, responded with her arms aligned so that both arms were on par with the lines of her body.

Turning around, Liza said.

– I really am sorry to have taken possession of your body without your consent. This will be the first and last time— I will never do the same thing ever again.

...Eh? What do you mean...?

– As a result of the materialization, since that day in which you were live, my power has been completely consumed. Naturally, by lending you my power outside Little Garden, it is normal that I cannot even speak. Therefore, let me tell you one last thing—

– Yes of course! I am all ears!

Her appearance was that of a girl.

However, her words and her calm felt as if it were an adult who has lived for decades.

As a result, Karen's tension suddenly increased.

For Karen, these words of Liza that echoed in her head could have been something similar to those of a teacher regarding Hundred.

– You want to protect others, and that is extremely important. You have both abilities and qualities. That is why doubt will be born. That is why later on, in the future, that is something that you will have to go through on your own, that's not something that I can decide. That is your own decision. But, listen to me. This is a common desire of your number one fan, it is nothing more than a longing...

Liza, who was advancing with her legs towards Karen, changed the hand with which she held the sphere, from her left hand to her right hand and with it, touched her face.

– I love your songs. Therefore, do not strain yourself. Do not die. Since there will be sad people if you die. Please, do not forget it—.

– A- as you wish...!

Those words were firmly etched in Karen's chest.

– Now, Claire ... before I finish my work. Although its size is like that, you will not believe the considerable amount of energy that it has, I consider that the capacity of recovery is substantial.

With that said, Liza loose the sphere of light in the air and place it above her hands, then join them and from the sphere, something similar to water escapes from it. A dazzling light envelops the surroundings, and bright particles begin to cover all that area.

– What is it, this... The wounds of my body are healing...

It was Krovahn who muttered that.

Then, Nakri also notices.

– It's true, my wounds are healing too...

– Liza, what is all this...

– I have used the energy accumulated by Joker, to use it for the good of you, eliminating your wounds.

Liza answers Claire's question.

– Bring it back to Little Garden and use it for my recovery — you've thought about that Claire. What you should want is the recovery of your fellow Slayers. Or is not it?

– It's as you say. But, Liza .. you...

Claire's eyes began to tremble when she noticed that Liza's body was becoming transparent and that, unlike before, the landscape behind her was becoming visible. Then Liza, realized that it is soon the moment in which she should pay a visit to her body.

– It seems that the time has come...

– Wait, Liza! There are still things I want to tell you —

Claire quickly tried to grab Liza, but she could not cling to her body. Claire fell face down on the ground.

– Sorry, Claire. I have reached the limit with which I can continue to be here in this place. After all, I'm just a mass of *Sense Energy* that sleeps inside Karen—

– In that case, in that case in Little Garden...! Then, we'll see us there!

Claire yelled at Liza, turning her head and standing with her knees on the ground.

– ...no.

Liza shakes her head, and responds.

– Even if I'm in Little Garden, to materialize, I have to use a lot of *Sense Energy*, so I cannot do this as if it were something simple. But, every time I have to protect Little Garden, then Claire—.

Then Liza approached Claire who had tears in her eyes and

hugged her body. It was a view in which Liza seemed to be really be her big sister.

– Claire, I cannot understand what Otou-sama or Onii-sama are planning. However, I do understand you and Little Garden, and the Slayers who are linked to Little Garden— plus, I understand very well that achieving peace in the world is really the most important thing. That's what I could understand. That's why I have expectations about you, Claire. From now on, take care of Little Garden.

– Of course, of course ... It's what I've been doing, Liza ... it's what I've been dedicating myself to...

\* Sniff \*, Claire made a sound with her nose.

Looking at that Claire, Liza smiled.

– Claire, do not cry ... And Karen. And to all Slayers, I really give you my thanks. From now on and as with Claire, take care of Little Garden.

\*\*\*

(What, how ...?)

Many hours have passed since Liza disappeared in the city of Sangria. The ceiling that Karen has before her somewhat blurry vision and her mind still asleep, is that of the hospital room that she sees from her bed.

(...Why am I here...?)

Karen lifted her upper body, and opened her eyes firmly as she felt that the battle of until recently was a dream.

– Oh, Karen has awakened!

– You're fine, Karen-san!

– Rebecca! ... Aoi-chan...!

Almost at the same time that she raised her body, Karen noticed the existence of Nakri who kept her back resting on one of the walls of the hospital room, where her two friends suddenly approached to hug her.

While she gives a glance when they get together, she goes through the door to leave the room.

– Nakri-san, wait a moment please!

Karen quickly gets Nakri's attention, and continues her words.

– Well, I, did I want to know why I'm here?

– ... Huh? You, don't you remember anything?

Surprised, Nakri opens her mouth.

– Well, this ... the fight against Joker in the city of Sangria ... then the conversation with Liza-san, and then, uhm...

– ... After that, you suddenly collapsed on the ground. And coincidentally that girl, "Liza", in that same almost instant disappears. Anyway, we call a doctor. I was told to tell you that when you woke up.

Nakri who opens the door and heads out of the hospital room stops at a point and,

– And, don't get me wrong, but I wasn't here because I was worried about you or something like that. I was staying here because the doctor told me to be watching the situation. So, until then!

– Th- this...

– Actually, she was worried about you.

It was what Rebecca said to Karen who was a bit confused.

– So, is that so?



– Because you saved her, from the beginning she came to watch as a form of thanks in case something happened, only that she doesn't know how to say it in an appropriate way. I saw it. So, "you can count on it".

– That I have, saved her...?

But she is not able to remember that moment.

Karen thinks that maybe it was Liza who could have helped Nakri.

(But, perhaps Nakri-san is aware of it)

However, if it is the case in which she is concerned about her health, she is very happy because the number of friends she has is likely to increase.

Surely—.

No, she will definitely be friends with Nakri.

It's something Karen firmly believes.

– —Oh right! Are you okay, Aoi-chan? I heard you fell down the stairs and you hit yourself in the head...

– That's, that's right, but as you can see, I'm fine. But more than that ... this ... I'm sorry!

– Eh, "I'm sorry", why...?

Karen is surprised to see that Aoi bows her head with force before her.

– It's because I went secretly to pick up my PDA to Sangria, I made Karen worry a lot about me, and in addition to what I did, I made her go through something so serious ... So, is not it natural that I should apologize to Karen, who even fainted?

– Please, do not worry about something like that. It was my decision to go to Sangria, also, we are friends, is not it? It is the

duty of one friend to help another when they are in trouble. Also, I'm sure Nii-san would do the same.

– Onii-san?

– Yes. My dear Nii-san.

– Uwaa, \*Sob\*...

Aoi lifts her glasses and wipes her tears with the sleeve of her uniform.

– But, there's one thing I want to ask you, Aoi-chan...

– What is it, you want to ask?

– Why did you decide to go and find your PDA on your own? If you had asked the Student Council, they would have looked for a way to solve it. Also, I think if you have something to say, you should not hide it from us...

– Wow, your PDA is in standby mode...

– Wait a minute, Rebecca! You promised me that you would not tell Karen-san in any way—

Desperate, Aoi tried to close Rebecca's mouth.

– But, I don't think it's necessary to keep this secret to Karen. Definitely our friendship will not be broken by something like that— Karen, take a look and see what's in the standby mode.

Saying that, Rebecca pulls out the PDA from Aoi's pocket and throws it to Karen's knees.

– Ah! Don't see it, Karen-san!

– At the moment that Aoi shouted, Karen had already picked up Aoi's PDA with her arms, and looked with her eyes at the standby screen.

– Is not this my Nii-san?

– U, uwaaaaaa...

Aoi's face was really red and she looked down at the floor.

– To summarize, this is what it means. In that time when you joined, Aoi said she's a fan of yours. But that's a lie. Actually Aoi turns out to be a fan of your older brother. Eventually I wasn't going to reveal it or something like that.

– Ahaha, so it was that kind of thing?

Unexpectedly, Karen laughs.

– Although, I would like you to have told me before.

– But, to me, Karen loves her Onii-san very much, and that is why, for me, it makes me feel bad to have this kind of feelings towards Hayato-san ...

– Faced with something like that, it does not bother me.

– Huh?

– Nii-san is amazing, and very cool, from the beginning I had a lot of rivals. As it has increased in one person, for Karen it is nothing special.

– Hey, are you sure of what you're saying?

– Oh...!

Aoi's face shines.

Karen looks at that face and smiles, and then continues with her words.

– But, there's no doubt that Karen loves her number one Nii-san very much and that it is undeniable that we have been together for a long time. With all that, I think it will continue like this forever. That's why I will not lose, Aoi-chan.

– In spite of that I, I will also give my best and I will not lose!

– Then, why don't we regroup and take him a picture?

– ... Eh?

Aoi looks puzzled.

– The picture of a few seconds ago, it was an image captured in secret, right? It seems that it was taken from a long distance and that, its capture was something difficult to do, isn't it? Karen has many pictures of her Nii-san, I'm carrying a bunch of them.

– Wo- would you give them to me!?

– Hmm, what should I do? Aoi-chan is supposed to be my rival.

With the laughter of the three people echoing in the hospital room, Charlotte and the nurse in charge of the hospital, Mihal, arrive there.

– Hey now, here it's pretty noisy. According to what Nakri-kun told me about your state of health, are you really well?

– Yes, I feel that my body is returning to normal.

– Then, will you be able to go to my laboratory with your own feet?

– As I said I'm already fi—

– Karen-chan, are you okay?

Mihal quickly goes to give her support to the body of Karen, who descends with difficulty from the bed.

– Ahaha, I think I've staggered a little. But I'm fine, I just have to stand firmly.

She collapsed because of the fatigue of the intense combat yesterday, and perhaps also because she no longer has the power of Liza because it has left her body. But, now she can perfectly stand with both legs. So also apparently can walk.

– Very good. Karen, there's very little left for you to rest once you finish this medical examination. It's getting late at night, so you go back home and take a break.

With the words of Charlotte, Rebecca and Aoi leave the hospital room.

– See you, Karen.

– Goodnight.

Karen says goodbye to the two people who leave the hospital room, with these words.

– See you again tomorrow at school—

\*\*\*

Hayato and Emilia were in the reception room of the palace. After leaving the stadium, receiving treatment for his injuries while the police took a statement of the events, the time indicated that it was already nine o'clock at night. Thanks to Sakura and pontiff Serivia, who was with her two guards, and to the words of thanks they received from King Granald, they were finally released from that process.

They just needed to go back to the room prepared in the guest rooms to go to sleep— and that's what, there's an incoming call on Emilia's PDA.

It was on behalf of the < <Technologist in Charge> > *Main Technologist* of Little Garden, Charlotte Dimandius.

– It seems that the battle with Joker has come to an end. Everyone is safe in Little Garden. Of course, Karen-chan too.

– I see...

Hayato feels relieved to hear the words of Emilia who has finished talking to Charlotte.

– At the moment, there is something less to worry about.

Both Douglas and Bratt are being subjected as terrorists in a trial under the administration of justice of the Federation of Britannia and from which a verdict will be issued.

As Hayato has said, Douglas has been involved in a coup d'état after reaching the top of the military order, and that he intended to put the sovereign state of the British Empire under the power of Wenz.

Bratt also cooperated with him, because he received bribes, through illegal donations in secret funds and things like that.

Although he could be exposed at the time he suffered the defeat in the upcoming elections for Prime Minister, far from saying that his political career came to an end, there was the possibility that he would be imprisoned.

However, if the coup d'état was successful, not only could he continue as Prime Minister, but he could also eliminate everything related to it.

Of course all that was taken by the wind.

Bratt anyway, would lose the position of Prime Minister. Adding that, a scientist who was captured in Gudenburg by Vitaly and who revived Joker, the *Homunculus*, said that he was a former scientist belonging to the kingdom of Wenz. It was what he had already heard from Charlotte by Emilia.

The secret unit of the Kingdom of Wenz, which moved behind the United Nations, entered the base of the anti-Slayer group. From the materials they obtained by annihilating those who were there, they moved through clandestine ways the Variable Stone to the Kingdom of Wenz, and it was there that discovered that Douglas, had a large sum of money, coming everything to light.

Douglas did not punish that scientist, but threatened him, so he could use it and leave it under his control. At the same time, he obtained documentation on the plans related to the *Homunculus* from the materials found when they checked the database. He went in search of Joker, revived him and freed him in Sangria.

To all this, a deal has been decided with Britannia in which the scientist will be prosecuted in Liberia.

– Charlotte has reported that there has been considerable damage to the city of Sangria, and that Little Garden hasn't received any. They have confidence that they can leave port in a week, as they have planned. It would be good if things happened for a moment a little slower.

– I second that.

After putting her PDA back in her pocket, Emilia reclines on the sofa sitting on the left side of where Hayato is.

Sakura was sitting in front of them, with a strange expression on her face looking at that scene.

– Hayato-kun, can you make me a spot in that place?

She gets up, and sits on the right side of Hayato.

But—.

– It seems that peace will not come so easily.

Inside the room. Sakura stopped when she heard those words from Serivia, who was looking up at the void in the sky.

– Pontiff-sama, with that, what do you...?

Sakura asks as she turns her eyes to the window.

– Could it be perhaps the prophecy of Serivia-san?

Continuing with Hayato's question.

– Huuh, what does that have to do?

Looking at Hayato and company, \*Fufufu\*, Serivia laughed.

– It turns out that being surrounded by two beautiful women, it is not so simple to achieve the tranquility of day after day, and—

– No, that, Serivia-san!?

– It will get ugly if I meddle, that is why I will depart from here ... I am sure we will meet again somewhere. I have that feeling. On the other hand, I know you will be safe, but even so, let me pray for it, and for you to be happy. May God bless you all—.

Serivia led her two followers and left the reception room.

– I can feel in one way or another that she is a wonderful person. There was an aura in her that was even capable of dulling that of an Idol like mine.

– She was the **Pontiff-sama** of Puritaria...

Even Sakura, she was considerably nervous after that.

– Something more important than that, Hayato-kun.

Now that she has finally been able to sit comfortably next to Hayato and then take his arm, Sakura continued.

– The day after tomorrow is the day Hayato returns to Little Garden, isn't it? As the case of the engagement is already solved and if you have nothing else to do, why don't you come to see me at the Louvre?

– Hmm ... this ... for me it's not a problem but...

Hayato directs his sight towards Emilia.

It is to check if there is something wrong.

– Don't count with me.

Emilia responds immediately.

– I've seen the live performance so many times so far, that I don't find it funny anymore. In addition, Hayato is now in a state in which he has completely consumed his *Sense Energy*. It is better for him to take it easy and rest for a whole day here in Gudenburg.



– He-hey!

This time it was Emilia who pulled his arm.

– Besides, I am no longer a mere fiancée, my father has given us his approval, so that there are no restrictions in which two people can love each other? I know, what if we go to a museum? I'll be your guide!

– ...What? What does this mean? Besides, didn't you just "to take it easy and rest for a whole day? Also why are you talking about a date like that? And what's more, it's completely boring!

Sakura supports herself on Hayato and tries to eat Emilia.

– My live performances continue to have a perfect production every time, they always change so that nobody gets bored of them, and first of all, I didn't invite Emilia to go! I only invited Hayato-kun!

– What? Is Sakura-san saying that she intends to monopolize Hayato?

– Even if you came to the live performance, when I sing, the view of Hayato-kun will never go to Emilia's. So, it's really the same.

– Ha, that's impossible! Hayato is always thinking of me. That's why in his *Dual Act*, his second weapon was exactly the same as my armor, or am I wrong? The Hundred take shape according to the power of feelings. Hayato and I are one! It really it's like this, isn't it, Hayato!?

– Well, at that... this...

It is certainly how Emilia thinks, but how to say it.

Hayato does not know.

– Aagh ... Then, both of you come to the live performance! It will be a duel!

– Okay, whatever!

– This, you two, could you stop fighting for a moment...

Seeing the two girls who remained vigorously attacking in this heated discussion, Hayato feels deep down in his heart that Serivia's predictive ability is real.

# Epilogue

The day after the battle against Joker.

Little Garden Student Council President Claire Harvey was visiting the Student Council room for the first time in the day. Because she was behind the conciliation measures due to the fight against Joker yesterday, she has been unable to return to this room.

(Finally there is a moment of pause in all this...)

The recovery after the terrorist attacks of Vitaly has already been completed. Although help is being given in the restoration works in the city of Sangria, it has been decided that they will leave the port of Sangria next week.

She has heard that the anti-Slayer organization was thwarted by the sweeping operations of the United Nations, putting an end to the series of attacks that continued since the terrorist incident perpetrated by Vitaly.

Standing up, Claire began to boil water in the bowl.

It is to prepare black tea. Her favorite assam tea.

That's something to drink on a special day.

Although the existence created by *energy* was within Kisaragi Karen, she was still able to meet and talk with < <Little Sister> > *Liza*.

In that place where Liddy, Erika, and the three Artificial Variants were, it was impossible that they could talk about her.

Of course that was confidential.

That she was her sister and that she kept her sleeping in the Little Garden underground. She was the true identity of LiZA, and it was the *energy* on which Little Garden depended. Although it gives her a

headache to have exposed herself in such a way, Claire is really happy to have been able to talk with Liza.

Therefore, she thought that she should drink this tea for today,

– Tsk, at this time, what is happening!?

Claire suddenly raised her voice after being interrupted by the sound of the alarm that unexpectedly began to sound.

The emergency light that is installed on the ceiling also began to glow in a red color.

Is there a crisis happening here in Little Garden?

(Why do these kinds of things happen so recurrently...!!?)

Being confused, Claire bites her lips.

[It's serious, Claire-sama!]

When she returned to the front of the desk, the floating monitor appeared. Who is reflected is the figure of Chris and behind him is the *Briefing Room*.

That makes her feel uncomfortable.

– ... Chris, what is happening?

[I have confirmed that there has been a reaction with a powerful *energy* near the middle point between Mars and Earth]

– But how! Is that correct?

[Yes. The < < Space Station of Liberia > > *NLSA*, has also captured the existence of an energy at the same time, and it seems they have been able to confirm its appearance right now with the Space Telescope. The information must be coming ... Ah, it has arrived just now. Changing the monitor screen]

The figure of Chris that was being projected on the floating monitor changes to that of the space that is filled with many stars.

And what it can be seen at the center of it is a mass, similar to a meteorite.

– Don't tell me, than that...

[As you can see, it's a mass of Savage. Its total length is about fifty meters. It can be distinguished that there are about thirty bodies and that it is approaching the earth at a speed of thirty kilometers per second. The possibility of impacting the earth is 88%. It has been estimated that it takes about three weeks to arrive]

– With that scale, it is not an exaggeration to say that this could be a < <Third Encounter> > *Third Attack*.

[Such a possibility cannot be denied at the moment. There are also reports that there are other objects detected as small meteorites, that means, Savage, which would also be approaching]

– Kh...! But why is everything happening in a consecutive way...!

Claire tries to sustain her temper.

Even considering that the wounds and blows and the *energy* in the fight against Joker have healed almost completely thanks to Liza, it is still a series of battles.

The mental burden for the Slayers who belong to Little Garden for the first time, as well as for the residents who live there will be intense. Maybe it will be true, it does not mean that Little Garden will not be able to do anything about it.

It is because of times like these, that Little Garden exists.

– Let's gather members of *Selections* as soon as those two, Kisaragi Hayato and Emilia Hermit have returned tomorrow. We will hold a meeting tomorrow. Until then, we will request information and share it to cooperate with each of the countries, private military companies and each of the other organizations through the United Nations. This is not a crisis that affects only Liberia, but a crisis for the whole world.

<To be continued>

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